

# THE TIMES



No. 65,881

MONDAY MAY 5 1997

TODAY

**10P**

## SURVIVING THE SLIMMING SEASON

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Starting today: mixing with the great and the good

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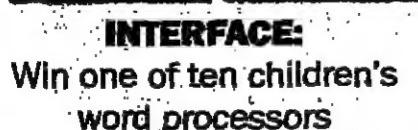


The Roy Strong Diaries - part II

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ARTS: Our critics' guide to the summer's essential shows



INTERFACE: Win one of ten children's word processors

THURSDAY



MUSIC: Richard Morrison's guide to the Proms



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How Disney brought Beauty and The Beast to London



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MAGAZINE:

Sean Bean turns on the charm

PLUS

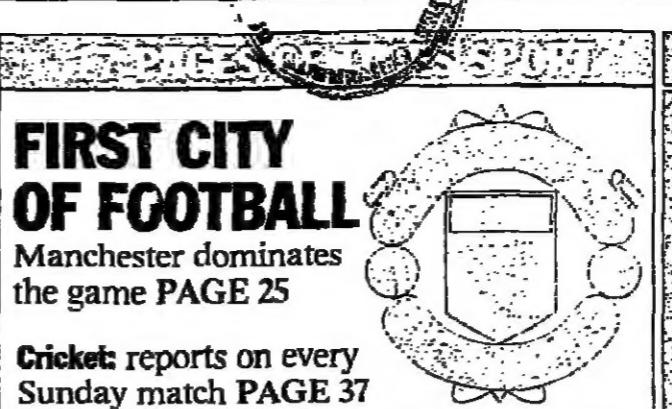
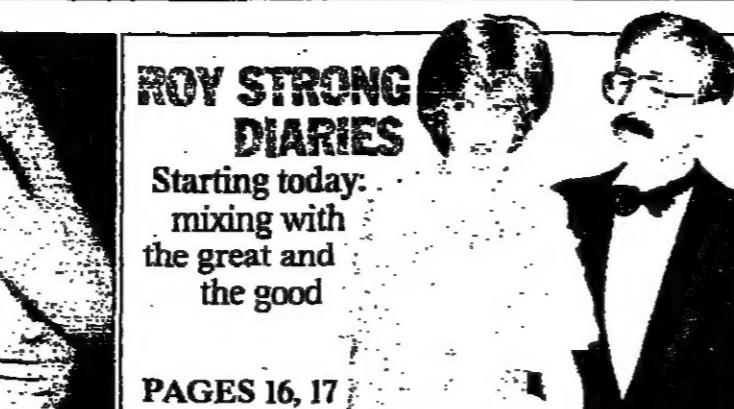
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# Blair rewards the faithful



John Prescott trying his new office for size. "I have this feeling that someone will wake me up and say it was all just a wonderful dream," he said

## Election chief gets key post

By PHILIP WEBSTER,  
JILL SHERMAN  
AND POLLY NEWTON

TONY BLAIR last night handed key roles in his Government to many of the most enthusiastic supporters of his crusade to change the Labour Party.

The Prime Minister followed up his Cabinet appointments on Saturday by giving Peter Mandelson, one of the originators of new Labour and the manager of his election campaign, the task of ensuring that his policies and programme are implemented throughout Whitehall. Labour sources nicknamed him The Enforcer.

Today a stream of so-called Blairites including Tessa Jowell, Stephen Byers, Alan Milburn, Henry McLeish, and Brian Wilson will become ministers of state. And it is understood that Alan Howard, the MP who defected from the Conservatives during the last Parliament, will go straight into the Government as a junior education minister.

In another eye-catching appointment, Geoffrey Robinson, the former Jaguar chief executive and current owner of *New Statesman* magazine, was made Paymaster General at the Treasury, where he will work under his friend Gordon Brown. Sources said that his previous business experience would prove invaluable in trying to rescue the faltering private finance initiative, although he has not had a frontbench job for ten years.

Mr Blair underlined the extent to which he believes that he will still depend on Mr Mandelson by appointing the Hartlepool MP Minister without Portfolio, outside the Cabinet but working from the Cabinet Office and still a part of the inner circle.

Mr Mandelson had been hoping for a departmental post that would have allowed him to

concentrate on a specific policy and begin to move away from his image as a media manipulator. But Mr Blair insisted, and Mr Mandelson's presence so close to the centre is bound to unnerve some Cabinet members who will regard him as the leader's eyes and ears.

Other members of Mr Blair's pretorian guard who will be based at the Cabinet Office include John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister; Ann Taylor, Leader of the Commons; David Clarke, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster; and Derek Foster, Public Service Minister.

With Labour planning to take the first step today towards introducing the social chapter to Britain, Mr Blair appointed Douglas Henshaw Minister for Europe. Mr Henshaw, a pragmatist chosen for his negotiating

skills, is seen as neither a pro-European nor sceptic and will implement the policy decided by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Blair.

Yesterday they emphasised the importance attached to European

man said that his decision to brief Mr Henderson personally showed that he was determined to show a hands-on lead from the top on Europe.

Mr Henderson said of today's talks: "We do not accept that the British people should be second-class citizens with less rights than employees on the Continent." And Mr Cook said in a statement: "The Brussels meeting opens a new chapter in Britain's relations with Europe. It marks a fresh start in Europe for Britain, working with other member states as a partner, not as an opponent. At the meeting Britain will take the first step towards signing up to the Social Chapter."

Mr Blair's first Cabinet appointments — including five women — contained no shocks, although Frank Dobson won a

surprising promotion to Health Secretary, a portfolio he held in opposition under Neil Kinnock.

Two members of the elected Shadow Cabinet, Michael Meacher and Tom Clarke, were left out of the Cabinet, but will have minister of state jobs. Andrew Smith, who was transport spokesman for the Shadow Cabinet, becomes Employment Minister in charge of the welfare-to-work programme under David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary. Although not a member of the Cabinet, he will attend meetings and speak on employment issues.

Labour had repeatedly pledged that the employment post would be a Cabinet one, and one senior union leader said yesterday:

"Tony Blair has gone back on a key promise on the first full day

of a new Labour government being in office. What a surprise."

By making clear that Mr Smith would attend Cabinet, Labour sources were clearly moving to avoid charges of betrayal.

Mr Foster, as Public Services Minister, remains outside the Cabinet in spite of being promised a job within it.

Other appointments include Helen Liddell as a Treasury Minister. Ms Liddell was a close friend of the late John Smith and took over his Monklands East seat after his death. She is regarded as a tough negotiator who has adapted swiftly to the modernising cause.

Frank Field's appointment as Social Security Minister, deputising for Harriet Harman, underlines Mr Blair's determination to introduce radical welfare reforms.

## Tory Right more confident as Heseltine gives up race

By OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

RIGHTWING contenders for the Tory leadership claimed support last night after the departure from the race of Michael Heseltine.

Peter Lilley, the former Social Security Secretary, became the second contender, after Kenneth Clarke, to throw his hat into the ring and John Redwood confirmed that he was likely to stand.

The contest was thrown into confusion by the announcement on Saturday that Mr Heseltine, who would have been the favourite as a unity candidate, is not standing. Mr Heseltine, who had a heart attack four years ago, was being treated at the weekend for mild angina pains. He and his family decided that it was time to call it a day.

Michael Howard, William Hague and Stephen Dorrell are to join the contest this week. With Michael Portillo defeated at last Thursday's election the supporters of other rightwing candidates, Mr Lilley, Mr Howard, Mr Hague and Mr Redwood, were all claiming to be attracting MPs who would have supported the former Defence Secretary. They also claimed to be picking up support from MPs who would have backed Mr Heseltine.

A number of former senior Tory ministers are expected to come forward this week as backers of Mr Howard. Yesterday Virginia Bottomley indicated that she could back him.

In the first policy initiative, Mr Clarke said that if he became leader he would allow Conservative MPs a free vote on all big European issues.



This is ridiculous - we can't all be leaders

## Mobutu at end of his 32-year rule

FROM SAM KILEY  
IN KINSHASA

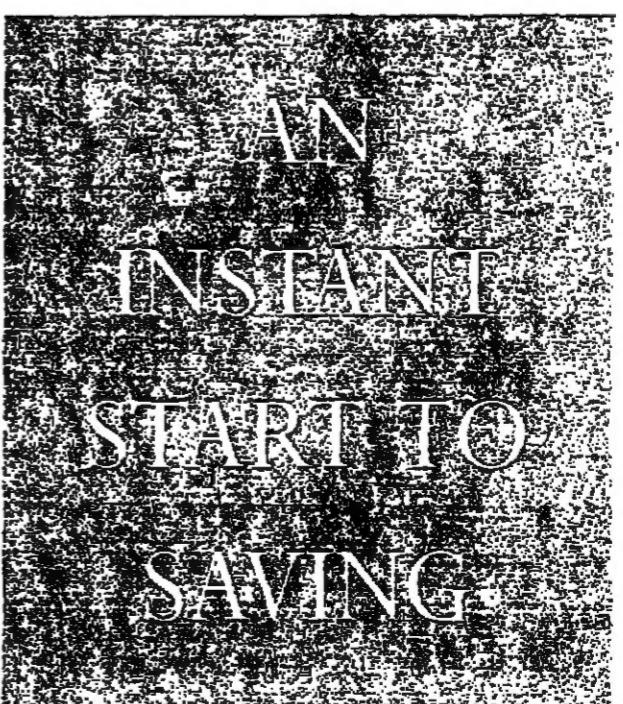
ZAIRE'S rebel army was closing in on Kinshasa last night after peace talks between President Mobutu and Laurent Kabila failed. Most of the President's family were preparing to flee and the 32-year-old regime was collapsing.

Mr Mobutu, who is suffering from cancer, met the rebel leader on a South African ship at Pointe Noir, in Congo. The talks were hosted by President Mandela.

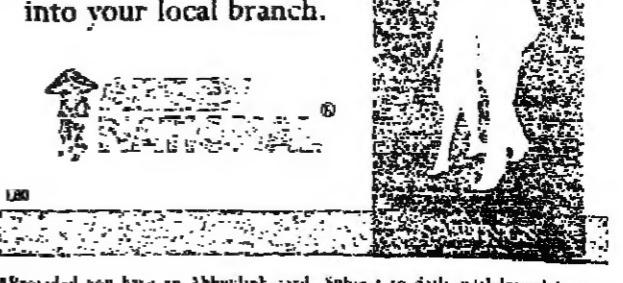
Mr Mobutu, 66, offered to step down if power was handed to a transitional government. He said elections would be held and he would not be a candidate. The offer was swiftly rejected by Mr Kabila.

Although the pair agreed to meet again the end of Mr Mobutu's regime is now certain. His offer lost him the remains of his credibility.

Ultimatum call, page 13



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# Rivals emerge from the shadows

KENNETH CLARKE

**The candidate:** aged 56, the oldest and easily most experienced. Served in Heath government and has had numerous Cabinet posts under Thatcher and Major. **Appeal:** centre-left; strongest pro-European. Wonderfully frank. Admitted government was "in a hole" and had not read the Maastricht treaty. **Strengths:** ability, successful Chancellor, parliamentary pugilist, popular even among enemies. Courage — has always refused to compromise on Europe despite unpopularity. The man Blair fears most. First out of the blocks and with appeal to party to put its differences aside. **Weaknesses:** unacceptable to the Right because of stance on Europe. Sometimes seen as bluff. Blamed



for taking Major prisoner on single currency. **Campaign team:** Ian Taylor, John Gummer, Peter Temple-Morris. **Rating:** respectable showing in first ballot but needs to convert some on the Right to proceed further.

WILLIAM HAGUE

**The candidate:** aged 36, moderate on the Right. Wowed Tory conference at age of 16. Entered Commons in 1989. Rapid rise to become Cabinet minister six years later at 34. **Appeal:** should have cross-party backing from Tories who believe a generation jump will help combat Tony Blair's appeal. **Strengths:** no enemies. Good Commons performer who stumped Blair in constitution debate. Could be the unity candidate now Heseltine is out. Will pick up supporters of Portillo and Heseltine. **Weaknesses:** too young and inexperienced. Could suffer through people comparing him with Major as someone whose views no one is quite sure of. Some think he has



risen without trace. **Supporters:** Alan Duncan from the Portillo camp; Nigel Evans, his former parliamentary private secretary; Sir George Young, the left-leaning former Transport Secretary. **Rating:** serious chance if he can win over the big guns.

STEPHEN DORRELL

**The candidate:** aged 45, former health secretary, former "wet", who was kept out of government by Margaret Thatcher. Major brought him into the Cabinet as heritage secretary. **Appeal:** shifted noticeably in Eurosceptic direction, but he remains a strong advocate of one-nation Conservatism. **Strengths:** youth and experience. Dorrell entered the Commons in 1979. He is a possible unity figure now that Heseltine is out. Holds a tough line on the single currency. **Weaknesses:** seen as overambitious. Not trusted by the Right who call him a Johnny-come-lately on the single currency. Lost some natural support on the centre-left for his conversion.



sion. Prone to gaffes. Robbed of important support by election results. **Campaign team:** Peter Luff, another former wet who has shifted to the Right; David Faber, his former PPS. **Rating:** outsider who will need to bang the unity drum to progress.

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

KENNETH CLARKE and Peter Lilley have declared they are in the race for the Tory succession. John Redwood has almost done so. And within a few days they will have been joined by Michael Howard. Stephen Dorrell and William Hague. One or two other dark horses could yet emerge.

Gillian Shephard, the former Education Secretary, will be considering her position over the next few days. She was one of the successes of the Major government and one of the few Cabinet ministers deemed to have had a good campaign. If she does not stand, her endorsement would be important to any of the other candidates.

When they arrive at Westminster on Wednesday, Conservative MPs will no doubt spend some time considering the scale of the disaster that has befallen them. Soon, however, they will be deciding whom to back in a leadership contest that could be over by the end of next month.

Events have moved with bewildering speed. First, the Right's leading candidate Michael Portillo was toppled by the voters. Then Michael Heseltine, fast emerging as the unity candidate, pulled out after going into hospital for checks on a heart condition. By yesterday morning Mr Lilley had entered the battle, and Mr Clarke was offering Tory MPs free votes on all matters European.

The fight for the hearts and votes of Conservative MPs is on — with all candidates claiming to offer the best hope of offering effective opposition to Tony Blair and putting the party back into election-winning shape.

The departure of Mr Portillo and Mr Heseltine has thrown all calculations into turmoil. Mr Portillo's votes could split four ways with Mr Lilley, Mr Howard, Mr Redwood and Mr Hague; even Mr Dorrell has made the right noises.

Mr Clarke could probably only count on the support of the 35-40 known pro-Europeans in the new party, although he would hope to pick up backers who believe that giving Tony Blair a tough baptism is more important than the stance on monetary union. In that first ballot the Eurosceptic vote is bound to be split between Mr Redwood, Mr Lilley, Mr Howard and Mr Hague; even Mr Dorrell has made the right noises.

Mrs Heseltine and the couple's daughter Annabel

William Rees-Mogg, page 20

## Mystery over role of Anne Heseltine in decision to withdraw from contest

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND JOANNA BALE

MYSTERY deepened last night over the role of Anne Heseltine in her husband's decision to withdraw from the Tory leadership contest after he was admitted to hospital suffering from mild angina.

Conservative Central Office changed its tune yesterday in an attempt to dispel the notion that Michael Heseltine had been given an ultimatum to quit by his wife at his hospital bedside.

Party officials maintained yesterday that the statement issued on Saturday, which revealed that the bookmakers' favourite was bowing out, was a joint one made on behalf of the couple. But it was not. It was instigated by Mrs Heseltine, who dictated the words down the telephone from the Oxfordshire hospital to a press officer at Conservative headquarters in London. The wording of the statement, which was released in her name, was not changed.

But a Central Office spokesman said yesterday: "To clear up any confusion I can confirm it was a joint statement by Mr and Mrs Heseltine."

Mrs Heseltine, arriving at Horton General Hospital in Banbury yesterday, thought differently. "It was my statement and was put out by them for me. I am delighted that they did so. I thought that it would end any form of query. We have been hovering and hovering about this and mulling it over," she said.

Mr Heseltine, who is undergoing tests after being admitted to hospital early on Saturday, had agreed with the wording,

according to Central Office yesterday. But a senior official said: "I think he was sort of bounced. Michael agreed with the spirit of the statement but that is all. He never saw the words. Mrs Heseltine wrote them."

Mrs Heseltine, according to friends of the couple, had been opposed to her husband seeking to replace John Major since he suffered a heart attack in Venice in 1993. "I think she saw her chance when he was admitted to hospital," the official added. "They had always agreed his health would come first. Mrs Heseltine ensured he stuck to his word."

Mr Major was among those who sent flowers yesterday. Mr Heseltine, who is in a side room on a National Health Service cardiac care unit, is expected to leave hospital tomorrow.

JOHN REDWOOD

**The candidate:** aged 45. Eurosceptic and populist. Former Welsh secretary and head of Downing Street policy unit under Margaret Thatcher. Challenged Major for leadership in 1995.

**Appeal:** popular on the Right, particularly among Thatcheries. Opponent of single currency. **Strengths:** rated for courage to leave Cabinet and fight Major. Intellectual. His organisation is already in place. High profile. May pick up supporters of Portillo. Worked hard on the new Tory MPs before the election.

**Weaknesses:** never shaken off image of a "Vulcan". Accused of disloyalty. Unacceptable to one-nation Tories. Lost significant backers in Thursday's rout.

**Rating:** respectable showing in first ballot but may struggle thereafter.



can Smith, Lord Tebbit's successor at Chingford and a respected figure on the Right. Julian Brazier, Edward Leigh, Marion Roe, Andrew Robathan, David Wilshire.

**Rating:** respectable showing in first ballot but may struggle thereafter.

MICHAEL HOWARD

**The candidate:** aged 53, rightwing loyalist and populist. He was Home Secretary under Major.

**Appeal:** draws support from the Right and centre. Deeply sceptical on Europe. **Strengths:** respected for fighting to change the wait-and-see line on the single currency. Most senior rightwinger in the field now. Portillo is out. Good debater whom MPs believe would give Blair a run for his money. Popular among colleagues. Tenacious and ambitious.

**Weaknesses:** poor television image. Comes across as slippery. May be seen as too old for the long haul ahead. He will be 60 at the next election.

**Rating:** serious contender for rightwing vote who may get the Thatcher nod.



ing Eurosceptic organisers. David Maclean, his former number two at the Home Office; David Lidington, former PPS; David Davis, former Europe minister, likely to back him.

**Rating:** serious contender for rightwing vote who may get the Thatcher nod.

PETER LILLEY

**The candidate:** aged 53, former social security secretary behind the radical "big idea" pension plan. One of Major's Cabinet "bastards". Likely shadow Chancellor if not leader.

**Appeal:** mainly the Right, particularly among those who would have backed his friend Portillo. Wants "wait and see line" on single currency to be abandoned. Trying to broaden his base as a Tory with the social conscience.

**Strengths:** less divisive than Redwood. Popular and highly respected as success in office. Strong intellect. Highly efficient and competent in Commons. Good at party conference.

**Weaknesses:** unknown outside Westminster. No natural base. Most of his



ministerial team lost seats. **Campaign team:** David Willets, chairman of Conservative research department; John Whittingdale, former Thatcher PPS; Piers Merchant.

**Rating:** dark horse but picking up support fast. May surprise.

## The BT Friends & Family Reunion Free Prize Draw.

The next draw will take place on 12 May. There will be a further four draws on the following dates: 7 June, 7 July, 4 August and 8 September 1997.

The prize for each draw will be a Reunion trip for up to 30 persons.

Entry into the prize draw is automatic for Friends & Family members. All winners shall participate in required Reunion publicity. If you wish to opt out of the prize draw please call 0800 005 210.

Non-BT customers or non Friends & Family members may enter the prize draw by calling 0800 005 210. Please contact us 48 hours before the date of the next draw.

Full terms and conditions are available on request.

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## Patient was wise to have his own interests at heart

### MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttard

**MICHAEL HESELTINE** would have been most unwise to have contested the Conservative leadership. frenzied parliamentary activity would have deprived him of the control over his own time which is of prime importance to patients with coronary heart disease. A patient can set his own schedule, eat what and when is needed, and get enough sleep only when he is answerable to no one but himself and his family. This is the privilege of wealth or retirement.

After a heart attack some people are so worried that they monitor every beat of their hearts like a nervous airline passenger listening to the engines. In an effort to prevent cardiac neurosis — a morbid preoccupation with the heart — some cardiologists can be too cavalier about taking sensible precautions. Mr Heseltine, however, has shown no sign of cardiac neurosis and has lived a very active life since his first heart attack four years ago. The state of Mr Heseltine's arteries, in particular his left coronary artery, and the health of his cardiac muscle will now have to be assessed and the possibility of a by-pass considered.

Short-lived angina does not usually represent an acute

medical problem. Known as angina of effort, it is directly related to emotion or excess exercise and disappears immediately they end.

The type of angina which does cause immediate concern is that which persists for some time, two or three hours for instance, and which has not been induced by some sudden activity but possibly by a long period of stress, sleeplessness, over-activity and, in Mr Heseltine's case, the excitement and uncertainty about standing for the leadership. Other worrying forms of angina are those in which the pain is induced more and more readily by less and less activity, or even starts coming on while the patient is at rest.

It would be usual to organize another coronary angiogram, an x-ray of the coronary arteries to detect any narrowing, a stress thallium scan, in which the patient is exercised after thallium, a radio active marker, has been introduced into the bloodstream to reveal any limitation of the blood supply to the heart muscle, and an echo cardiogram which determines the power of the heartbeat. If the blood supply to the heart muscle is shown to be inadequate a by-pass would be considered.

Short-lived angina does not usually represent an acute

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Legal & General



A hut for his police guard is moved into the garden of the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, at his house in Oxfordshire. He is not going to use his official Belgravia residence

## Merry-go-round as the new ministers select their ideal homes from home

By VALERIE ELLIOTT  
AND RICHARD FORD

**TO NEIGHBOURS** it may have appeared that Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, was having a new garden shed delivered to his elegant thatched country home in Oxfordshire.

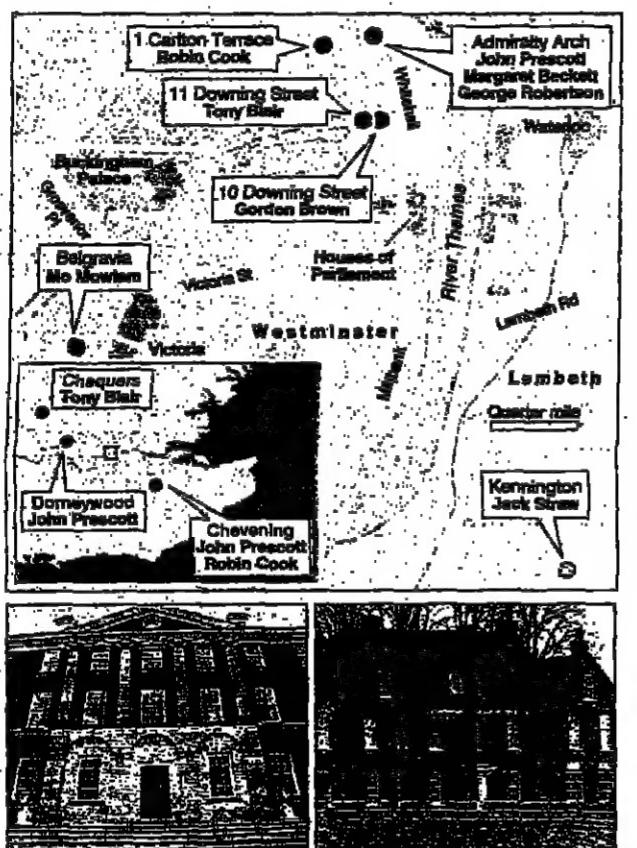
The wooden hut, for which the Straw family will have to sacrifice their cabbage patch, will however be used by the police who will watch over him when he spends weekends at home with his wife, Alice, a senior civil servant, and their two teenage children.

Mr Straw has said he will not move from his home in Kennington, south London, to the official residence in Belgravia traditionally used by the Home Secretary. He and his wife have told friends they wish to remain in the south London house because they want their children to have as normal a life as possible.

The Belgravia townhouse is to become the London home of Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and her husband, Jon Norton, a City banker. She has been advised to leave her south London home on security grounds.

Ms Mowlam will also have the use of an apartment at Stormont House, near her office in Stormont Castle in Belfast, and Hillsborough Castle in Co Down. The castle was the residence of the governor of Northern Ireland.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, is to move into Carlton House Terrace, a Georgian residence leased from the Crown Estate Commissioners, which is the traditional London home of holders of his post. But Mr Cook will have to share Chevening, the



Chevening, left, will be shared by Robin Cook and John Prescott. Gordon Brown will share Dorneywood

country house retreat for Foreign Secretaries, with John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister.

The 17th-century house, built by Inigo Jones, has 115 rooms and is set in 3,500 acres on the North Downs, near Sevenoaks, Kent. It is a sumptuous country residence which Mr Cook, a keen horse rider, and his wife, Margaret, a hospital consultant, will enjoy.

The house is also used for pre-Budget meetings of Treasury ministers and officials.

nation by Lord Courtauld-Thomson in 1943. Mr Brown suggested it would be better for the house to be opened to the public or used for charity events.

His predecessor, Kenneth Clarke, used the house regularly and often popped into the local pub before Sunday lunch. Norman Lamont and his wife loved the house so much that John Major was prepared to offer it to Mr Lamont as compensation for wishing to move him from the Treasury to the Department of the Environment. It is probably the house with the best equipped games room and has a barn converted for billiards, table-tennis and squash.

Mr Prescott is also to have one of a number of flats in Admiralty Arch. His neighbours will include Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, and George Robertson, the Defence Secretary. They will have to make their own domestic arrangements and will have to employ their own cleaners and other help.

Michael Portillo, the former Defence Secretary, found the noise particularly disturbing when he lived in the Admiralty with its early morning alarm - the military bands which meet to rehearse on Horseguards Parade.

Mr Major was temporarily moved to Admiralty Arch in 1992 when building work was going on in No 10. He was astonished by the grandeur, spaciousness and elegance of the apartments compared with the cramped flat at Downing Street. Sir Leon Brittan lived there while he was Home Secretary, and his wife Diana organised aerobic sessions for friends there.

## Good neighbour Brown keeps up with the Blairs

By VALERIE ELLIOTT

LIFE IN Downing Street could set new levels in neighbourhood, as the Blairs plan to live above Gordon Brown's office at No 11.

Mr Brown - who set aside his leadership ambitions in favour of Mr Blair three years ago - will be living at No 10 after all. The upstairs flat is too small for the Blairs.

Mr Blair will still work from No 10, and the Chancellor from No 11. Neither will have to leave work by the front door and walk home next door, as there is an interconnecting door.

Mr Brown will keep the use of No 11's ground-floor study, and the magnificent dining room to entertain world finance ministers and bankers, and the first-floor state drawing room for receptions. He is also understood to be anxious to have access to the kitchen in the private flat.

It is not yet known when the Blairs intend to move into the grand and spacious living area. Therese Lawson, who lived there with a young family when her husband Nigel was Chancellor, recalled one of its main advantages of

bringing up her two children, Tom and Emily. "The rooms are very well soundproofed so the children can make a great deal of noise without disturbing anyone," she said. "Tom used to practise his trumpet in there."

She also disclosed the nightmare of walk-in wardrobes on the second floor: "You could enter them from a lift that connected the flat with the lower floors.

"People would come up in the lift, walk into the wardrobe by mistake and were then able to walk around the entire floor without anyone knowing they were there. Initially I had one or two rather unnerving experiences when I found myself confronted in my bedroom by somebody who wasn't a family member."

Norman Lamont and his wife, Rosemary, also adored the house and entertained frequently. The Blair family will be able to escape to their new country house at Chequers. Soccer nets will probably be among the first additions to this Tudor mansion that was bequeathed to the nation by Lord Lee of Fareham in 1921.

## We keep Elgin Marbles, Smith tells Greece

By ANDREW PIERCE

THE Elgin Marbles, the subject of one of the world's longest-running diplomatic disputes, will not be returned to Greece by the new Labour Government, it was announced yesterday.

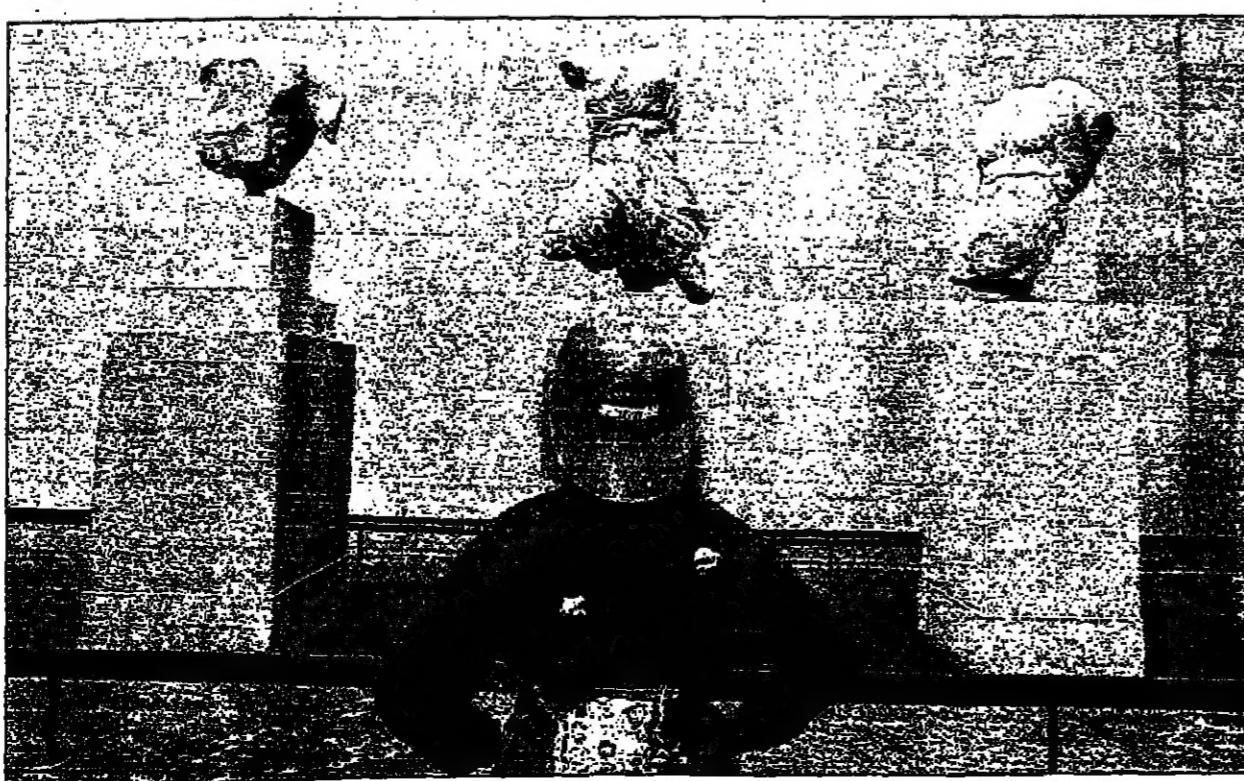
Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, in the first definitive policy statement of the new administration, confirmed that the 2,340-year-old marbles, which were seized by the Parthenon by Lord Elgin in 1803, will remain at the British Museum.

The decision, which will cause the first upset in relations between the new government and one of its European Union partners, could also put Mr Blair on collision course with Labour MEPs. More than 40 signed a petition last year calling on Britain to give the marbles back to Greece.

But the announcement thrilled the 11th Lord Elgin, the great-great-grandson of the seventh earl, who bought the marbles from the local Ottoman administration.

Lord Elgin said last night: "I am delighted by this news. The marbles were sold to my forebear in perpetuity to the British people. That was the original terms. It is right they should be honoured."

"The Greek authorities have



The new Government's first policy decision was that the Elgin Marbles were to remain in the British Museum

allowed the sculptures left at the Parthenon to crumble into ruins. Were it not for the action of my forebear there would be very little left.

"There is no logical reason for them to return. The Greeks rely on emotion." The Greeks

opened up their latest public-relations offensive, to try to secure their return, within hours of Mr Blair's election.

The Heritage Secretary, speaking on BBC's *On the Record*, said: "They are an integral part of the British Museum's collections. They

are wonderfully displayed in the British Museum."

Labour had examined the issue over the past five years. "We decided it was not a feasible or sensible option. We won't do it," Mr Smith said. Millions of visitors from all

over the world see the marbles each year.

Mr Smith added: "If you start embarking on questioning where particular works are located around the world then you get into all sorts of difficult areas of discussion. You are going to have swaps of works of art taking place throughout the world, disrupting everything, and it doesn't make sense."

The policy decision by the Blair Government is in stark contrast to the one adopted by Neil Kinnock, who was ridiculed when he chose his first policy declaration as Labour leader in 1985 to return them to Athens.

Mr Kinnock said then that without the frieze of stone sculptures the Parthenon was "like a smile missing a tooth".

Mark Fisher, then Labour's spokesman on the arts, was last year reprimanded by Mr Blair for suggesting that talks could be opened on the marbles, which inspired Keats and Hardy, with the Greeks who regard the 1803 transaction as an act of theft.

The Greek Government would restore them to the Parthenon, a temple that is of unique significance to the Greek culture.

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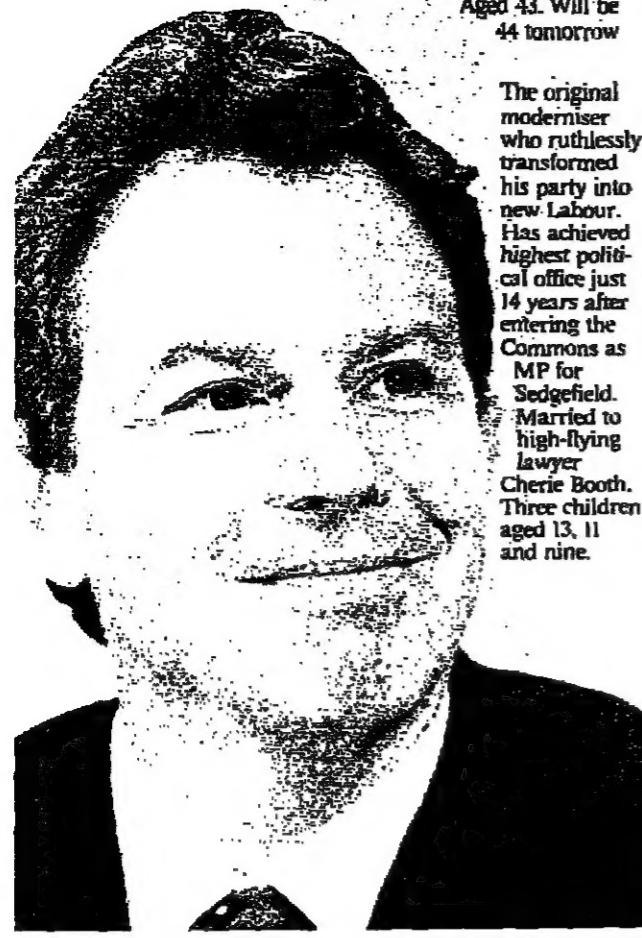
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**Tony Blair**  
Prime Minister  
Aged 43. Will be  
44 tomorrow

The original moderniser who ruthlessly transformed his party into new Labour. Has achieved highest political office just 14 years after entering the Commons as MP for Sedgefield. Married to high-flying lawyer Cherie Booth. Three children aged 13, 11 and nine.

**John Prescott**,  
Deputy Prime  
Minister, in charge  
of environment,  
transport and the  
regions. Aged 58

The acceptable face of old Labour at the Cabinet table. Terrible syntax belies true brain power. A real graft. MP for Hull East, married to glamorous wife, Pauline.

**Gordon Brown**  
Chancellor of the  
Exchequer, 46

Stood aside to let Blair run for Labour leadership after John Smith's death. Key moderniser. Election pledge to be "iron Chancellor". To reassure voters that new Labour would not return to "tax and spend". Unmarried. MP for Livingston, married with two sons.

**Robin Cook**  
Foreign Secretary, 51

Hugely intelligent, sharp-tongued perfectionist. Old Labourite who reluctantly accepted modernisation. Relatively Eurocentric. Not a Gordon Brown fan. Keen rider and racegoer. MP for Livingston, married with two sons.

**Margaret Beckett**  
President of the  
Board of Trade, 54

Tough, competent, inimitable. Formerly hard-left. Defeated in parallel race for Labour leadership after John Smith's death. Married to Leo. MP for Derby South, married with two sons.

**Jack Straw**,  
Home Secretary, 51

On the Right of the party. Accused by detractors of being Tory clothes-peg. Strong verbal punch. Suggesting national curfew for young children. Married with two children. MP for Blackburn, married with two sons.

**David Blunkett**  
Education and  
Employment  
Secretary, 50

Formerly seen as high-spending. Shy-faced central figure, once encouraged in moderate camp. Advocates strict discipline in schools. Married with three sons. MP for Merton and Morden, married with two children.

**Donald Dewar**,  
Scottish Secretary, 59

Popular quick-thinking Scot who was implementer of John Smith's election programme. Once described as "the best-entertained man in Scotland". Never remarried after wife left him for Lord Irvine, the new Lord Chancellor. MP for Glasgow, married with three children.

**Jack  
Cunningham**,  
Transport Minister,  
55

Not very bright, a noisy MP with a tendentious speech. Once described as "the most daft speaker since John Smith". Sacked from cabinet over expenses row. Never remarried after wife left him for Lord Irvine, the new Lord Chancellor. MP for Glasgow, married with three children.

**Lord Irvine**,  
Lord Lairg,  
Lord Chancellor, 56

As legal mentor to the young pop star Tony Blair, "Derry" Irvine was the man who introduced the future Prime Minister to the world. Married to the wife of the new Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar.

Polly Newton and James Landale on the new cabinet

# Blair in power:

## Election guru rewarded with pivotal policy role

By JILL SHERMAN  
CHIEF POLITICAL  
CORRESPONDENT

PETER Mandelson, key architect of the new Labour project, walked off with the most senior job of the middle-ranking appointments announced by Tony Blair yesterday.

Mr Mandelson has earned his just reward — a pivotal role as a senior minister developing and co-ordinating policy across Whitehall. He will not only ensure that the right hand knows what the left is doing but will be responsible for policy presentation to both the public and the party.

As Minister without Portfolio, with the rank of minister of state, he will also be allowed to sit in Cabinet committees and assume a large part of the role that was adopted by Michael Heseltine when he was Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr Mandelson, 43, will not

have Cabinet status but he will have one of the most powerful roles in government with much more influence over the Prime Minister than most of the Cabinet.

Mr Mandelson's new desk will be in the Cabinet Office, separated by only a door from Number 10. His main job will be developing and co-ordinating policy across departments and ensuring that the government machine runs smoothly. He will also attend daily meetings with the chief whip and government business managers and with the press operation. Yesterday, speak-

ing before his post was confirmed, he said: "I am there to assist in the strategic implementation of our policies and to make sure that our programme is kept on track and moving forward and to ensure that these policies are effectively presented to the public and to the party."

Mr Mandelson's appointment is bound to provoke tension between Mr Mandelson and cabinet ministers, who will fear that he may intervene in the running of their departments.

John Prescott, in particular, may be nervous of Mr Mandelson's influence and wary of any encroachment into what he regards as deputy prime minister territory. Labour sources point out, however, that Mr Prescott will have such a big job supervising his own super-ministry of transport and environment that he will not be the MP for Oxford East since 1987.



**Andrew Smith**, 46, Minister of State for Education and Employment: low-profile, unexciting Blairite. Was formerly the Shadow Transport Secretary, who was reportedly irritated by the media interest surrounding his deputy in Opposition, Glenda Jackson, the actress. He endured five minutes of fame during the general election campaign when it emerged that Labour might privatise Britain's air traffic control system. Mr Smith was shown emphatically telling last year's Labour Party conference that it would never happen. Married with one son. Has been the MP for Oxford East since 1987.



**Helen Liddell**, 46, Minister of State at the Treasury: a close friend of the late John Smith, the former Labour leader who died in May 1994, she took over his Monklands East seat in a by-election later that year. Tough, bright and well-liked at Westminster. A former Scottish Secretary of the Labour Party between 1977 and 1988, she has old Labour roots, but has rapidly converted to the modernising cause. Between 1993 and 1994 she gained business experience as chief executive of the Business Venture Programme. Became the Labour Party's spokeswoman on Scotland in 1995, dealing with education and social work.



**Geoffrey Robinson**, 58, Paymaster General: millionaire MP for Coventry North West since 1976, who resigned as Labour's front-bench trade and industry spokesman in 1988 to start a business. TransTec. The company is now estimated to be worth £100 million. He is close to the Blairs, who have spent summer holidays at his mansion in Tuscany. He also owns the Grade I-listed, 20-bedroom Marsh Court in Hampshire and an eight-bedroom house in Surrey. He won his seat at a by-election after a two-year spell as chief executive of Jaguar Cars. Last year he took over the ailing *New Statesman & Society*.



**Doug Henderson**, 48, Minister for Europe: considered hard-working and expected to negotiate toughly in Britain's interests. A pragmatist, he will implement policies rather than set his own agenda. Formerly spokesman on trade and industry, the environment and the Citizen's Charter, he began his working life as an apprentice at Rolls Royce in Glasgow. He became a BR clerk and then a union researcher before becoming actively involved in politics. A keen marathoner, he lost one of his Westminster jogging partners, the former Olympic gold medallist Sebastian Coe, in the Tories' election rout.



**Derek Foster**, 59, Minister of State at the Office of Public Service: most recently the Shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (from 1995 to 1997) after long service as Opposition Chief Whip, beginning in 1985. Has been the MP for Bishop Auckland since 1979. Married his wife Florence in 1972, they have three sons and one daughter. Was formerly a councillor in Tyneside. Is a uniformed member of the Salvation Army, and an enthusiastic singer. Had expected to be rewarded with a Cabinet post after he agreed to stand aside for Donald Dewar to take the Chief Whip's job in 1995. Amiable but grey.



**Tessa Jowell**, 49: well-liked, arch-moderniser who could become the acceptable face of the Health Department under Frank Dobson. Close to Blair. Began career as a childcare officer for Lambeth council, then a hospital social worker. Assistant director of mental health charity Mind 1974-86, chairman of the social services committee of Metropolitan Authorities 1978-86. Camden councillor 1971-86. Divorced in 1975, married second husband in 1979. Has two children and three stepchildren.



**Brian Wilson**, 48: Scottish Blairite, recently headed Labour's much-mocked but secretly admired "rapid rebuttal unit" to counter Tory claims about party policy. Has been opposition spokesman on Scotland, the Citizen's Charter and transport. A journalist by trade, he was founding editor and publisher of the West Highland Free Press newspaper 25 years ago. MP for Cunningham North since 1987. Named Parliamentarian of the Year in 1990. Tirelessly faxes newspapers with instant reactions. Tickled off by Madam Speaker for reading a question from his paper. Married with two children.



**Henry McLeish**, 48: Blairite, Scottish-born former planning officer who once worked part-time as a university lecturer. A research officer at Edinburgh's social work department from 1974-75 then became involved in planning and employment. Between 1984 and 1987, he worked as a part-time consultant on employment matters. Solid local government experience, including leadership of Fife Regional Council and chairmanship of its education committee. Elected as MP for Fife Central in 1987. He has spoken on Scotland, employment, transport and health for Labour in opposition.



**John Reid**, 49, the son of a postman and a factory worker, he is a former union activist whose Blairite veneer covers an old Labour core. He was an adviser to Neil Kinnock, the then Labour leader, from 1983-85 and went on to become Scottish organiser of Trade Unions for a Labour Victory between 1985 and 1987. Married with two sons, he entered the Commons as MP for Motherwell North in 1987. Deputy shadow spokesman on children's issues, 1989-90. Former member of the Commons Public Accounts Committee and chairman of Labour's Parliamentary Industry Committee. A keen football fan.



**Stephen Byers**, 44: bright, hard-working, enthusiastic Blairite and ally of Peter Mandelson. Arch-moderniser. Tends to oversell the new Labour project. Famous for telling journalists at the Seafood restaurant in Blackpool that Labour was threatening to break the link with unions. An MP since 1992, was singled out as a high-flyer in 1994 when appointed to the Whips office. Became shadow education and employment minister in 1996, concentrating on trade unions — keeping the Thatcher laws and ditching previous Labour policy. Education and legal expert — former senior lecturer in law at Newcastle Polytechnic.



**Ian McCartney**, 46: old Labour, but moderately so. Former Transport and General Workers Union branch secretary and shop steward. Obsessive supporter of Wigan Rugby League club. MP for Macclesfield since 1987. Labour spokesman on employment since 1994. Renowned at Westminster as the shortest MP in the Commons, at around 5ft 5in. His crusade against unlicensed doormen at clubs and pubs left him in hospital last year after a beating by some of those who disliked his views. Known in Westminster as "Big Mac". Has one son and two daughters from his first marriage. Married second wife Ann in 1988.



**Alan Milburn**, 39: first elected, for Darlington, in 1992. An advocate of regional government, he has written books about regeneration of the north of England. He loves statistics, particularly those which appear to show Tory failings, and regularly produces for the press detailed tables of hospital bed closures and spending on health service administration. Educated in Newcastle before studying history at Lancaster University. Former council and union official. Former member of the powerful Public Accounts Committee. A popular figure around Westminster. Has one son with partner Ruth A classic new-style moderniser.

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**George**  
Robeson  
Defence Secretary.  
Aged 51

Shadow Scottish  
Secretary (1993 to  
1997), he had  
expected the job in  
cabinet but was  
moved sideways to  
MoD. MP for  
Hamilton South since  
1978. Son of a  
policeman. Married  
Sandra in 1970, two  
sons, one daughter.

**Frank Dobson**  
Health Secretary, 51

Shadow Minister for  
Environment (1994 to  
1997). MP for  
Holborn and St  
Pancras since 1979.  
Married Janet in  
1967. Has one daughter  
and two sons. A  
former leader of  
Camden council in  
London. Old Labour  
but almost able to  
sing to the new tune.

**Ann Taylor**  
President of the  
Council and Leader  
of the House of  
Commons, 49

MP for Bolton West  
from 1974 to 1983 and  
then Dewsbury since  
1987. Shadow Leader  
of the House (1993 to  
1997). Was a member  
of last Labour  
Government.  
Married with one son  
and one daughter.

**Harriet**  
Harman  
Social Security  
Secretary, 46

Shadow Employment  
Secretary (1994 to  
1997). Married in 1982  
to Jack Dromey,  
senior official at the  
Transport and  
General Workers  
Union; has two sons  
and one daughter.

**Marjorie**  
Mowlam  
Northern Ireland  
Secretary, 50

Shadow Northern  
Ireland Secretary  
(1994 to 1997).  
Previously a  
spokesman on  
National Heritage  
matters, the citizen's  
charter, women's  
affairs and the City.  
MP for Renfrew since  
1987. Married but no  
children.

**Ron Davies**  
Welsh Secretary, 50

Shadow Welsh  
Secretary (1994 to  
1997). MP for  
Caerphilly since 1983.  
Married Christina in  
1981; has one daughter.  
Very much Old  
Labour but brought  
into line by the  
Blairites. Prompted  
row last year when  
he suggested abolition  
of monarchy.  
Aged 50.

**Clare Short**  
International  
Development  
Secretary, 51

Shadow Development  
spokeswoman (1994 to  
1997). MP for  
Birmingham  
Ladywood since 1983.  
Widowed. Remained  
this year with son  
whom she gave up  
for adoption 30 years  
ago.

**Lord Richard**  
Lord Privy Seal and  
Leader of the Lords,  
64

Labour Leader in the  
Lords since 1997.  
Formerly a journalist  
and a QC. MP for  
Barrow-in-Furness  
from 1966 to 1974. Raised in  
permeation. Exposed and  
respected in the  
Lords.

**John Hume**  
Minister for  
Northern Ireland,  
54

Shadow Foreign  
Secretary (1994 to  
1997). MP for Foyle  
since 1983. Member  
of the Ulster  
Democracy.  
Aged 54.

**Chris Smith**  
Minister for  
Heritage, 55

Shadow Health  
Secretary (1994 to  
1997). Appointment to  
the Cabinet after the  
Labour election victory  
in 1997. MP for  
Brentwood and Ongar  
since 1983. One of the  
few openly gay MPs.

**Nigel**  
Edwards  
Child Welfare, 46

Economic official.  
Former deputy chief  
whip for Labour.  
Gave birth to Gordon.  
Aged 46.

**Chris**  
Smith  
Minister for  
Heritage, 55

Shadow Health  
Secretary (1994 to  
1997). Appointment to  
the Cabinet after the  
Labour election victory  
in 1997. MP for  
Brentwood and Ongar  
since 1983. One of the  
few openly gay MPs.

## how the team lines up

### Blunkett has the practical problems of office taped

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

WHITEHALL has been preparing for almost a year for the arrival of David Blunkett, the first blind Cabinet minister. But Mr Blunkett has already discovered one problem: his braille briefing papers are too large to fit into the "red box" that ministers take home with them at night.

Officials have wrestled with the problem of distilling 100 or more pages of briefing every day. Policy papers are to be limited to four pages and will have a short summary so that the Education and Employment Secretary can assess whether he needs a full briefing.

At Mr Blunkett's request, the department will use mainly taped submissions. A "reading unit" has been created to produce the audio cassettes.

Mr Blunkett will rely on his private office and political adviser to filter material. A small team centred on his researcher, Conor Ryan, has carried out the process in Opposition. The department is examining how big the team needs to be in government.

Mr Blunkett has an outstanding memory and has told the department that he can cope with 40 pages a day on audio tape, with a back-up on braille for statistics and particularly important texts.

Mr Blunkett has asked those intending to send submissions on future policy to do so in print, rather than in braille or on tape, so that the department can operate in the normal way. "In order to allow us to deal with matters in an orderly fashion, I would like people to forget that I cannot see and continue to deal with the department in the normal way," he said.

"I am requesting that they take a leaf out of my own book, which is to approach this job as would any other incoming

Secretary of State and allow the department to work with me in overcoming any practical problems."

The 49-year-old MP for Sheffield Brightside has been blind since birth. His optic nerves failed to develop, and he can barely distinguish between bright light and darkness.

His father died in an industrial accident when he was 12 and he had an unhappy period at a boarding school for the blind. He spent six years at evening classes gaining the A levels needed for a place at Sheffield University. Fellow students of politics took turns reading texts onto cassettes.

As leader of Sheffield City Council, he relied on a combination of braille and tapes to keep up with policy papers. After his election to Parliament in 1987, the Palace of Westminster had to relax its rules on animals to accommodate his guide dog.

Mr Blunkett held his first education briefing within hours of his appointment on Friday. He promised separate White Papers on education and employment soon with the prospect of one overarching bill in the first session of Parliament.

The task of writing the core of the education White Paper will fall to Professor Michael Barber, who has been appointed Special Adviser on Standards and Effectiveness in Schools. Professor Barber will be seconded from his post of Dean of New Initiative at the Institute of Education in London.

A focus group for teachers will be set up, to keep the department informed of their views. Teachers will be faced with a barrage of changes, including compulsory retraining in teaching the basics of literacy.

### Field called up for his radical thinking

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY Blair's decision to appoint Frank Field as number two at social security signals the Prime Minister's determination to implement sweeping reforms of the welfare state.

Mr Field will deputise for Harriet Harman, who has kept her shadow cabinet portfolio, but Mr Blair will be relying on the maverick MP for Birkenhead to "think the unthinkable" which is likely to include a pensions shake-up. Mr Blair had hoped that his shadow team would have come up with more radical welfare changes but Chris Smith ducked the issue and Harriet Harman's strength is in presentation, rather than detail.

Mr Field is known for his radical thinking — often more right wing than Peter Lilley's — and perhaps because of that he has been notably absent from Labour's front bench since 1984. Mr Blair made the first formal overtures to him last July, appointing him as a social security adviser on the

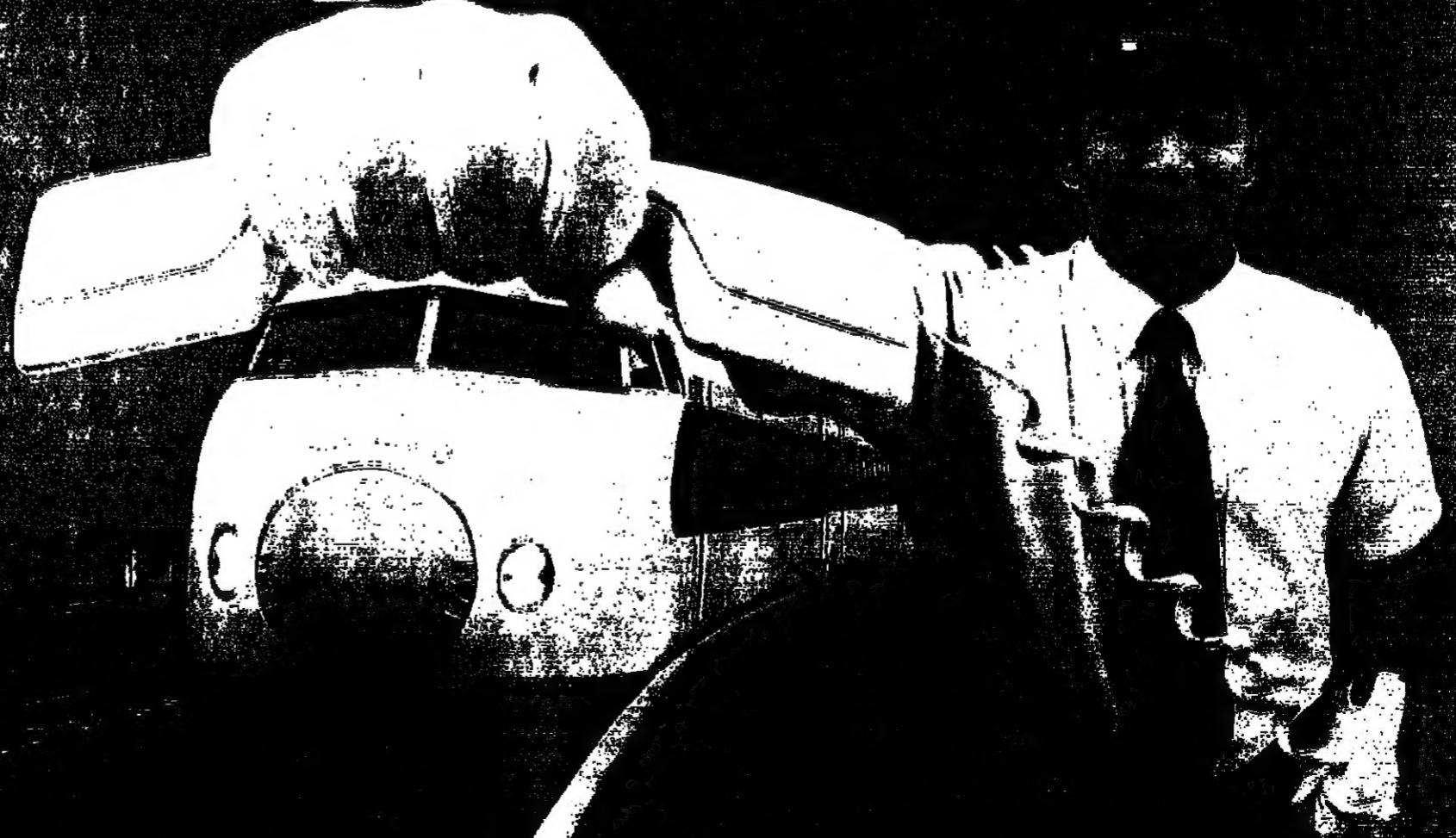
welfare to work programme, rather than giving him frontbench job.

A social policy expert who is prepared to speak his mind, Mr Field has chaired the Commons social security select committee for the past six years and had studied almost every aspect of the £90 billion welfare programme.

Last autumn he unveiled his plans for a "stakeholders' welfare" which included big increases in National Insurance contributions to fund the NHS, a new care pension to finance long-term care for the elderly, and insurance against unemployment.

Labour sources insisted that Mr Field's blueprint would not be implemented but his ideas would be seriously studied. In the shorter term he and Ms Harman will implement plans to help single mothers into work and get the poorest pensioners to take up their benefit entitlement. Other medium-term areas could include merging benefits and integrating tax and benefits.

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## Social stars shine again in Mountbatten movies

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN

A UNIQUE collection of home movies of the Mountbatten family, depicting Britain's upper class at play between the wars, has been discovered after nearly 60 years of neglect. The collection of around 30 films captures intimate family moments shared by Lord Mountbatten of Burma and his wife Edwina, her sister Mary and Mary's husband Captain Alec "Bobbie" Cunningham-Reid, and many famous friends. The list of friends featured in the hol-

The real star of the films, however, is Edwina Mountbatten. A strong and beautiful woman, she becomes a complete coquette in front of the camera. In one sequence she is filmed putting on her make-up and plucking her eyebrows in front of a mirror, giving knowing glances towards the camera.

Edwina, who became a millionaire as a very young woman when her grandmother died, went on to forge a distinguished career as a social welfare worker in service with the Order of St John. The home movies are a glimpse into the impish side of her character, rarely seen in public.

The films were shot with a 16mm camera by Cunningham-Reid, an MP who went



Moving memories: Edwina Mountbatten plucks her eyebrows on film. The camera also captured impromptu performances from Lady Mosley and Vivienne Leigh



Earl Mountbatten

on to become chairman of the Royal Shakespeare Company. Not only did he know the rich and famous, he also travelled to locations rarely captured on film in the first half of the century. He filmed a Jewish market in the Warsaw ghetto and street scenes in Moscow in the 1930s.

The films were found by Cunningham-Reid's widow and passed on to his granddaughter, Fiona, a documentary film-maker living in Australia.

Ms Cunningham-Reid said she did not think that the films had been shown in their entirety for nearly 60 years. None had been shown in public. She had spent a week watching them in growing excitement. "My grandfather

fancied himself as a filmmaker. He used to edit all his home movies and had a cinema at home where he would bore to death anyone who visited the house by making them watch the films," she said.

Ms Cunningham-Reid has deposited the films with the archive company Film Images and is now, using the footage, is planning to make a documentary film about her grandparents' lives.

Linda

Kaye

of the National

Film and Television Archives

said that home movies featuring well-known public figures filled in many of the gaps in the history books. "Films such as these provide a window on the social life and manners of the time."

Even if you have written documentation of somebody's life or their holidays, you do not get a full picture of what they were really like," she said.

"With moving images you get a different picture — their body language, their demeanour and their expressions tell you something about the kind of person they

were." Home cine cameras and projectors did not become widely available until the 1920s, when both Pathé and Kodak produced models.

These were very expensive — the early Kodak models cost \$335 — and tended to be playthings only of the rich. Home movie cameras did not become a mass-market product until the 1950s and 1960s.

## Ringo birthplace could be listed

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE abandoned terrace house looks more likely to be listed than listed. Number 9 Madryn Street, in Toxteth, Liverpool, has corrugated iron nailed over its single downstairs front window, a leaky roof, smashed lavatory and crumbling ceilings.

However, it could become the first birthplace of a living person to protect as a listed building of historical interest. That person was Richard Starkey, born in 1940, better known as Ringo Starr, drummer with The Beatles.

The house was sold at auction for £13,200 in March. The new owner, Cliff Cooper, who bought it unseen, says: "It's in a terrible state, but the aim is to get it listed." Martin Cherry, English Heritage's head of listing, said yesterday:

"The impact of The Beatles on late 20th century British culture is so huge, we would look at it very seriously indeed. Since it raises a particular issue, to commemorate people who are still alive, we would probably take it to one of our internal committees."

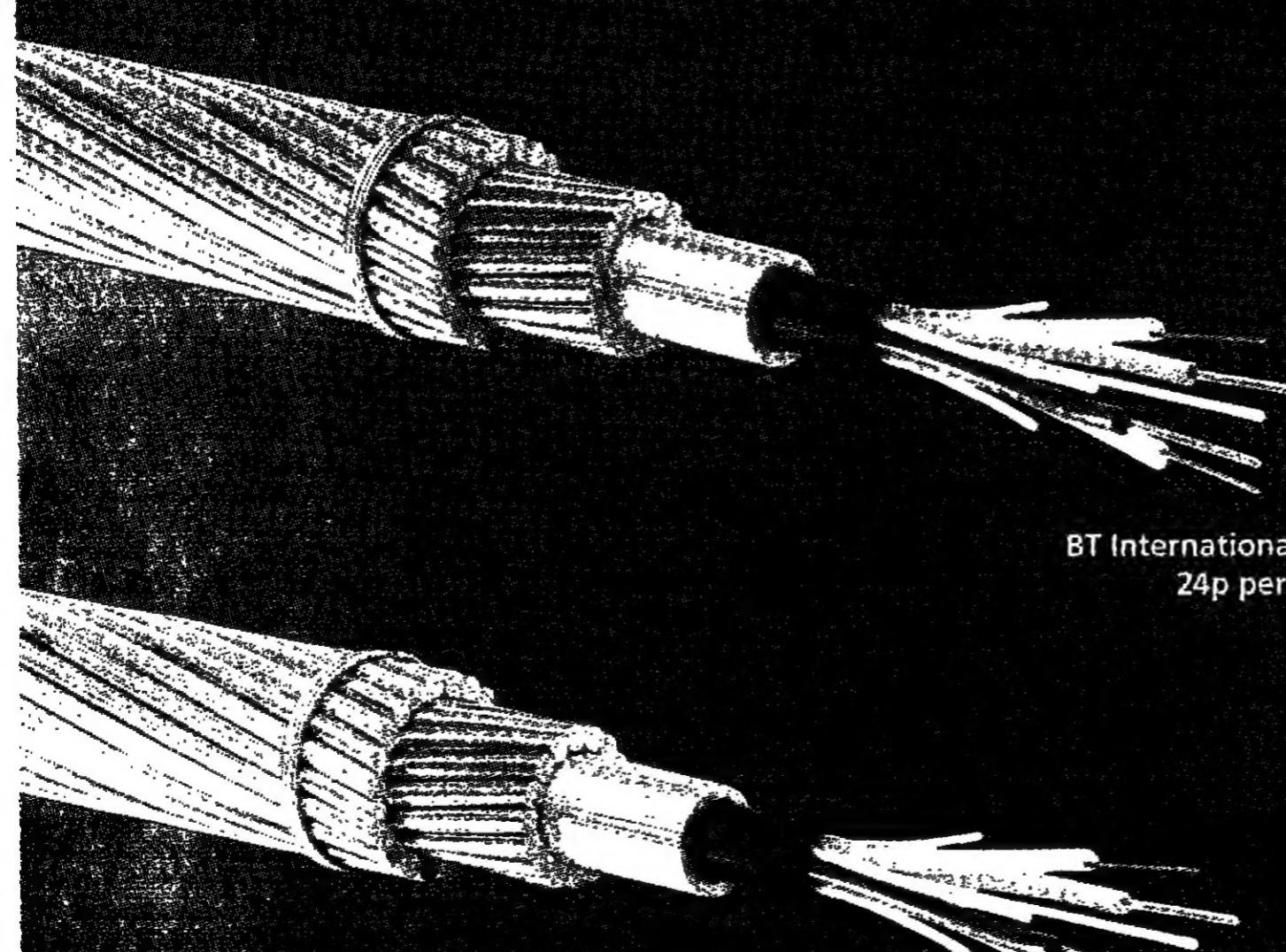
Mr Cooper, managing director of World of Music shops, wants to rent out the house where the child Ringo sheltered from air raids in a cupboard under the stairs. He plans to renovate it and place a tourist plaque on an outside wall showing its significance, but says the rent won't reflect its history.

In 1993, the National Trust bought the Liverpool house where Sir Paul McCartney grew up, and plans to open it to the public.



Street of fame: 9 Madryn Street, right

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# Richer Oxford colleges urged to share wealth

BY DAVID CHARTER  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

RICH Oxford colleges are under pressure to share more of their wealth with their poorer neighbours to ensure that the university's standards are uniformly maintained.

A survey by *The Times* of income and academic performance shows that the wealthiest colleges are grouped at the top of the examination results table. In most cases, it discloses that academic success and college income at Oxford go hand in hand.

Last year's top academic performer, Merton, is believed to be the fourth richest undergraduate college, with assets and investments worth £55.6 million. The richest college, St John's, which is worth more than £90 million, came fourth in last year's Nottage table of examination results, and the second richest, Christ Church, worth £89 million, came fifth. Both St John's and Christ Church are ten times wealthier than colleges in the lower half of the 30-college table, including Pembroke, St Edmund Hall and St Peter's. The findings will in-

## EXTINCTION THREATENS S LEVELS

**Qualifications designed to stretch the most able pupils are on the verge of extinction because of antipathy from universities and schools.** Despite consistent calls for courses that challenge the brightest beyond A level, the number of those taking Special-level papers has declined to critical levels. Fewer than 1,000 students take S levels with each of two main examination boards con-

tinuing to offer them. The take-up figures will come as a blow for Sir Ron Dearing, the Government's chief qualifications adviser, who saw S levels as an answer to critics who said A levels were not demanding enough for high-fliers. Almost no universities give applicants credit for S levels because they are not equally available across different examination boards.

crease pressure on the North Commission, the inquiry into Oxford's future, headed by Peter North, the University's Vice-Chancellor, for a greater redistribution of wealth.

Senior figures believe a scheme introduced 30 years ago to cream off money from the richest colleges and award it to the poorest has not gone far enough to redress academic imbalances.

John Fleming, warden of Wadham College and chairman of the Conference of Colleges, said wealthier col-

leges offered better facilities and lower accommodation charges. He believed the North Commission would be challenged to share resources more to preserve Oxford's tutorial system, in which students are taught in groups of two or three, but which some colleges struggle to maintain.

The problem is that the radical solution, to equalise everything, would remove everybody's incentive to manage well or solicit donations.

Detailed estimates yesterday suggested that the annual

income of Oxford colleges amounted to more than £110 million, excluding the value of college buildings, government grant and incomes from conferences. Assets and investments total £1 billion; the corresponding figure for Cambridge colleges is £795 million.

The richest Oxford college, St John's, has securities of £42.8 million, farmland worth £6.5 million and shops and offices valued at £43.1 million.

The total of £92.5 million yields an annual income of £5.5 million, used for staff costs, administration, maintenance and reserves.

Next richest is Christ Church, with assets valued at £89.3 million and annual income from them of £4.7 million. Then comes New College (assets £59.7 million, income £1.9 million) and Merton (assets £55.6 million, income £2.75 million). All are in the top ten for academic results.

Trinity is the wealthiest Cambridge college, according to the survey, with assets of £309.6 million, yielding £18.8 million annually.

Leading article, page 21



Making waves: Katrina Leskanich after winning the Eurovision Song Contest

Manchester bids to host Eurovision competition

BY AUDREY MAGEE

THE first British win in the Eurovision Song Contest for 16 years sparked another competition yesterday, for the choice of British city to host next year's event.

A feel-good song written for the Samaritans, *Love Shine a Light* by Katrina and the Waves, defeated the title-holders Ireland by 70 points, as the colours of the Union Jack flooded Saturday's audience in Dublin. Katrina Leskanich, 36, originally from Kansas, said: "It reflects the new era about to begin in Britain. We are back in the spotlight and on the move."

The win means that Britain will stage the event next year. Manchester's business chiefs were first to bid. The promotion consortium Marketing Manchester said: "This is the centre of the modern music industry."

Britain last won in 1981, with Bucks Fizz singing *Makin' Your Mind Up*.

## Business as usual as Royal Academy staff rescue art

BY ALAN HAMILTON

SWIFT action by staff and firefighters saved more than 100 paintings, including works by Reynolds, Constable and Turner, when fire broke out in the Royal Academy in central London on Saturday night.

Curators inspecting the damage at the Academy's home at Burlington House in Piccadilly yesterday found that it was much less than they had originally feared and was confined to a handful of paintings, drawings and architectural models in a first-floor gallery. Several entries for this year's summer exhibition, which opens on June 1, suffered slight damage but could probably be repaired.

A message from the Queen, the Academy's patron, to Sir Philip Dowson, its president, expressed her relief at the minimal damage, and congratulated one of the country's leading art institutions on opening for business as usual yesterday morning.

Like many other galleries, Burlington House has no sprinkler system, on the ground that water is likely to cause far more damage to paintings than small fire. But as the flames were being doused with firefighters' hoses, staff became concerned at a

trickle of water beginning to penetrate a basement vault where a large part of the Academy's historic collection was kept.

Some staff were on duty for a lecture taking place in the building; others were quickly summoned from their homes. Helped by firefighters, who were issued with white cotton gloves as worn by art conservators, they formed a human chain and moved more than 100 paintings to safety in another vault. They saved, among other works, a series of Constable landscape studies, Turner's view of Dolbadarn Castle in North Wales and a self-portrait by Sir Joshua Reynolds.

David Gordon, secretary of the Academy, praised staff and firefighters yesterday. "A fire is always a serious matter, but we were able to deal with it very quickly in the way we had predicted, and the fact that this morning people are coming in to see our George Gross exhibition shows that our procedures are working," he said.

The cause of the fire is still unknown, but the first-floor Lecture Room gallery, where it broke out, is undergoing refurbishment.

Photograph, page 24

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## TWA blast 'was not caused by terrorism'

By BRONWEN MADDOX

WHAT the FBI described as "catastrophic mechanical failure" was the most likely cause of the TWA Flight 800 disaster last July in which all 230 passengers and crew on board were killed.

According to Louis Freeh, the bureau's director, "the evidence is certainly not moving in the direction of a terrorist attack. It is in fact moving in the other direction."

The Paris-bound Boeing 747 exploded shortly after taking off from Kennedy Airport, New York, on July 17. Despite huge efforts to retrieve its shattered remains from the waters off Long Island, the cause of the blast has remained a mystery.

The bureau and the National Transportation Safety Board hope to present their formal conclusions by mid to late summer. Mr Freeh said, His comments have been interpreted as the FBI's attempt to prepare the public for the likely conclusion that the explosion was not caused by criminal action, and that there will not be a catastrophic trial to provide a focus for public anger.

Officials heading the investigation, which has cost \$28 million (£17 million), are now worried that the public will not accept their findings. Peter Goetz, spokesman for the safety board, said last week: "It doesn't do any good to conduct the most extensive investigation in aviation history and not have the public believe it."

Theories that the plane was hit by a missile have been encouraged by statements from more than a hundred witnesses who say they saw flashes of light heading for the plane moments before it exploded.

## Drugs and peso's slide mar Clinton Mexico trip

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

DRUGS, trade and immigration are the pressing agenda as President Clinton makes his first visit to Mexico today, in a trip which has taken on new urgency as the crisis over America's southern border has worsened.

Mr Clinton has repeatedly put himself on the line by choosing to support President Zedillo of Mexico and the cause of free trade within the American continent despite fears within his own Administration that Mexican corruption, drug trafficking and violence are winning over democracy and order.

Last month Mr Clinton chose to reclassify Mexico as an ally in the drugs war, although his officials were concerned that the Mexican Government lacked the power to be an effective ally. Thomas Constantine, head of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), told the Senate foreign relations committee that "there is not one single law-enforcement institution in Mexico with whom the DEA has an entirely trusting relationship".

Political analysts argue that the grip of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, which has run Mexico for decades, has slipped markedly in recent months. Although Señor Zedillo has more than three years left of his term, the party may lose control of the lower house of parliament in July elections.

Against that backdrop, Mexico will press Mr Clinton to support the extension of the North American Free Trade Agreement, the ground-breaking trade pact between the US, Canada and Mexico, to include at least Chile.

The pact's supporters point out that it was the peso crisis, not the agreement itself, which made American products too expensive for Mexican consumers, and claim that more jobs have been created than lost. But the evidence is so far too slender to give their argument much weight in Congress.



Banner-waving demonstrators shout at Pauline Hanson as she carries her campaign against Asians and Aborigines into Perth. The Prime Minister is accusing her of damaging Australia's interests overseas

## 'White Australia' champion met by hail of abuse in anti-racist protest

FROM ROGER MATNARD  
IN SYDNEY

pledged to carry on "I will stand by what I believe in, and they are not going to change my mind."

The Perth protest came as politicians moved to condemn the woman whose stance has won support and criticism in equal measure. Malcolm Fraser, the former Prime Minister, described her views as repugnant and offensive. "Her white, Anglo-Celtic, Caucasian Australia would become full of racial discord and bitterness," he said. John Howard, the Prime Minister, is out to destroy her party. In a speech this week aimed at Asia, he is expected to accuse her of damaging Australia's interests overseas.

Ms Hanson, the redheaded Queenslander who has polarised opinion since being elected to parliament last year, admitted afterwards that it was her toughest 24 hours since being elected. But the right-wing politician who has angered many Australians with her views denigrating Asians and Aborigines



Hanson escorted past the angry demonstrators

## Separatist siege ends in Texas

Los Angeles: The week-long siege that had tested the patience of Texas and forced nearly a hundred people from their homes ended on Saturday (Giles Whinney writes).

Leaving behind ten rifles, 24 pipe bombs and about 700 rounds of ammunition, Robert McLaren signed what he called a ceasefire between his "Republic of Texas" and the US Government and was taken to jail with three other members of the separatist clique. Two others fled into the Davis Mountains and were still at large yesterday.

### Anger aired

Cairo: Two hundred passengers, including foreign tourists, stormed a Cairo airport runway and forced their way on to an EgyptAir plane after a sandstorm at Aswan delayed the flight for 22 hours. (AP)

### Battle for town

Freetown: The Sierra Leonean Army and a militia of local hunters fought for control of the eastern town of Kenema and bodies littered the streets, military sources said. At least ten died, they said. (Reuters)

### Baby 'witch' dies

Calcutta: A two-day-old Indian baby girl was thrown on to her mother's funeral pyre in Assam state because villagers believed the infant was a witch and caused the 22-year-old's death, officials said. (AP)

### Gang killings

Macau: Gunmen on motorcycles shot and killed three men in a car here in the latest case blamed on a gang war over gambling. Rivalry between gangs has claimed 14 lives this year, police said. (AP)

### Two executed

Riyadh: Arid Beltran and Robel Jilda, two Filipinos convicted of robbery and beating a store employee with an iron pipe, were beheaded, taking the number of Saudi Arabian executions this year to 24. (AP)

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# Hong Kong opposition bolstered by new party

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

TWO HUNDRED activists marched yesterday to the office of Tung Chee-hwa, the Chief Executive designate of the Government here after the July handover to China, protesting against his proposed laws to limit political parties and demonstrations.

Meanwhile, Christine Loh, one of the most charismatic politicians in Hong Kong, announced the formation of her new Citizens' Party which calls for mass participation in the city's political life instead of the executive-led regime advocated by both the colonial and the future rulers.

The two hundred supporters of the Democratic Party, which holds the largest number of seats in the elected Legislative Council, to be abolished by Beijing on July 1 in favour of an appointed one, handed in 2,000 letters to Mr Tung opposing his intention to reduce civil rights laws.

They listened to speeches from some of the party's leaders and sang songs composed for the huge demonstration here on June 4, 1989, expressing "horror" at the Tiananmen Square massacre.



Loh: campaigning for mass participation.



## 1,997 students hail countdown to Chinese takeover

Students from Hong Kong and Beijing pledge allegiance to China in Tsim Sha Tsui yesterday. They stood below the giant clock which counts down the 14 days leading Britain's rule on July 1. There were 1,997

students at the ceremony — to mark the year of its return to Chinese sovereignty. President Jiang Zemin and Li Peng, the Chinese Prime

Minister, will attend the ceremony marking the transfer of power. Quoting sources in Beijing, it said that

Pao, Britain and China have agreed to stage a 35-minute ceremony to mark the transfer of power. Quoting sources in Beijing, it said that

territory to attend celebrations staged by the Chinese side. The colonial Government has said Britain and China had invited representatives from more than 40 countries to witness the changeover. (Reuters)

# Khmer Rouge wooed in Cambodia power game

FROM JAMES PRINGLE  
IN PHNOM PENH

DEFEATED on the battlefield, the Khmer Rouge appears to be making a comeback in the political arena as Cambodia's fragile governing coalition writhes within itself to recruit the former guerrillas. One senior foreign official called them "a cancer inside the body politic".

Informed foreign sources told *The Times* that there was still "a lot of friendly radio contact" between those

Khmer Rouge who have supposedly defected to the government side and hardline guerrillas in a last bastion.

King Norodom Sihanouk has said that the country's Co-Prime Ministers — his son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, head of the royalist party, Funcinpec, and Hun Sen, leader of the Cambodian People's Party, the former Communists — were responsible for "the dying Khmer Rouge being saved from a certain death".

Last week Nykhorn, a Khmer

Rouge battle commander and known killer, was appointed a Defence Ministry adviser and made a lieutenant-general. "This is not a surprise," said Ek Sereyvath, Secretary for Defence. "This is national reconciliation."

Under Pol Pot, the Khmer Rouge ruler from 1975 to 1979, more than a million Cambodians died from execution, overwork and starvation. The Khmer Rouge signed a 1991 United Nations-sponsored plan, but later reneged on the deal. Since then it has

been fighting the coalition Government formed after UN-sponsored elections in 1993.

Teng Sary, the former Khmer Rouge Foreign Minister, "defected" last August, but he and his cohorts are still in charge of those areas they controlled — all rich through precious gems and illegal logging — and have escaped censure.

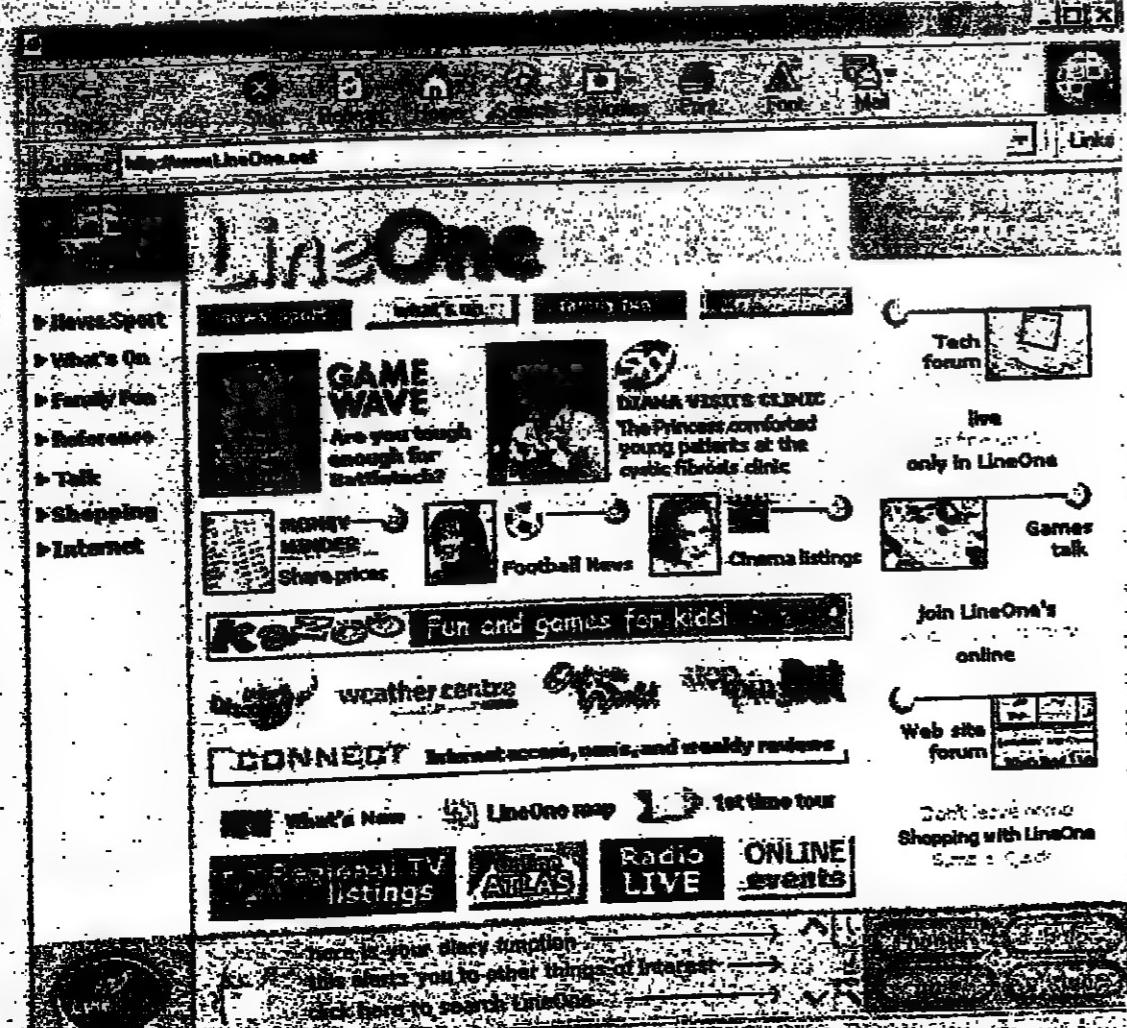
At a Phnom Penh "reconciliation" meeting last week of officials and military leaders of the coalition parties, Sokheap and Y Chhean,

two Khmer Rouge generals who "defected" with Teng Sary, were present. Diplomats note that Khmer Rouge support could be vital for the parties as they compete in next year's elections for sole power, but call it a dangerous game.

"Friendly radio contact" is said to take place between the defectors at Pailin and Phnom Malai and hardline Khmer Rouge leaders under General Ta Mok, the "Butcher", who fight the Government from a base at Anlong Veng in the north.



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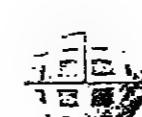
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Kabila threatens to take Kinshasa by force if President refuses to surrender power

## Mobutu is given eight days to quit as talks collapse

**ZAIRE'S** peace talks collapsed last night after Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader, rejected an offer from President Mobutu and pledged to fight his way into the capital.

At their first face-to-face meeting on board a South African warship, Mr Kabila told Mr Mobutu that he would accept his resignation "only if he handed power directly to the rebel leader. However, the President whose 32 years in power in effect ended yesterday, said that he would hand over, only to a "transitional government after elections".

The argument was largely academic as the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire began closing in on Kinshasa, the capital. Drivers living on the outskirts of the city said that the guerrillas were about 40 miles from Ndjili airport, which is on the edge of sprawling Kinshasa.

Using a blend of guile and military might, Mr Kabila managed to trap a belatedly-given Mr Mobutu into offering his resignation before pledging to take over Kinshasa early this week.

At the talks hosted by Pres-



Sam Kiley, in three reports from Kinshasa, looks at the prospects for peace and the personalities behind the conflict

dent Mandela of South Africa, Mr Kabila was confident and ebullient as he agreed to offer the ailing President eight days to consider his resignation.

"But I have told him and the mediators that there will be no ceasefire while he considers our demands," said Mr Kabila after the meeting, adding that his forces would soon attack Kinshasa's international airport.

Little resistance is expected from Zaire's disorganized government soldiers. They have run from the advancing rebels for the last seven months and abandoned city after city with little or no fighting.

In the last week Kitwiri and Kenge, both on the road to Kinshasa, were abandoned by Mr Mobutu effectively cut off from the rebels. In the special presidential division, however, rebels had a chance to get to the limits of the town. But most residents are anxious that the rebels

will enter Kinshasa as soon as possible to prevent the government soldiers going on a looting rampage ahead of their surrender.

The police and gendarmerie have collapsed into a rabble after their salaries were not paid last month. Kinshasa banks have been closed for nearly a week because there is little money in circulation. Members of Mr Mobutu's family were yesterday packing to leave Zaire before the rebels arrive while others boasted that they would "fight to the end".

Such a pledge was more bluster than reality. Mr Mobutu's sons with military training have only a reputation for thuggery and cowardice.

"With Mobutu effectively cut off after offering to resign, there is no one in control of the army. They are

desperate and scared and may try to wreck the city before they give in to the rebels," said Ali Moussa, the owner of a supermarket.

After the meeting in Pointe-Noire in neighbouring Congo, Mr Mandela said that "the question of a ceasefire is not part of (Mr Kabila's) vocabulary".

As his troops were closing

on Kinshasa, the capital, Mr Kabila is under pressure to agree to a ceasefire in a non-war and agree to a transitional government leading to elections.

But Western analysts

believe that Mr Kabila,

a Maoist in his youth, is too old

to change his spots and may

prove difficult to persuade

when it comes to respecting

human rights and democratic principles once he has Kinshasa in his grasp.

"He wants nothing other

than being the new President

of Zaire," said a senior European diplomat. With the military power, and a revolutionary zeal that has burnt for 30 years, it looked as if his ambition would be fulfilled.

The danger that advancing

rebels might spark chaos in Kinshasa put foreign troops, including British Marines, on standby to evacuate expatriates last night.

Several hundred British,

French, American and Bel-

gian troops have been based

across the Congo river in Brazzaville for more than a

month conducting exercises in rubber boats aimed at pluck-

ing their citizens from a city in flames.

■ Kisangani: Dozens of

Rwandan Hutsu refugees were

suffocated or crushed to death

yesterday in a train carrying

them from a refugee camp in

Zaire to be repatriated by air.

More than 100 people were

feared dead. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 21



Women join in mass prayer in a slum area of Kinshasa as Mr Kabila's forces were reported to be heading for the airport in the capital

## The puppet guerrilla who learnt to pull the strings

**L**AURENT KABILA, peering over his fingers from a slightly low-slung in a borrowed bungalow in Luvira last November, made an extraordinary boast.

"We are not just interested in taking Kivu. We are dedicated to overthrowing Mobutu and ending his criminal rule. We are going all the way to Kinshasa."

The statement from the polyvalent revolutionary, wheeled out as the nominal leader of a mainly Tutsi rebellion, was greeted with incredulous grins. Eyes turned towards his puny bodyguard in mismatched gym shoes and a tattered shiny with dirt. Gig-

gles were barely suppressed. Then it was obvious that Mr Kabila, 32, was little more than a puppet; a non-Tutsi leader paraded to legitimise a "rebellion" orchestrated by President Museveni of Uganda and Paul Kagame, the Rwandan Vice-President.

Their aims were to clear eastern Zaire of Ugandan rebel groups and armed Rwandan Hutsu refugees who were destabilising their own countries, and to prevent a threatened mass slaughter of Tutsis within eastern Zaire. The policy had the diplomatic backing of the United States, even though it involved "lend-

ing" large numbers of experienced Tutsi officers and guerrillas from the Ugandan and Rwandan armies.

But no one — not the CIA, the Ugandans, nor the Rwandans — could really have believed that just seven months later Mr Kabila would meet President Mobutu face to face to accept the big man's resignation while his bus-fighters were advancing on the capital.

"Nothing leads me to believe he is the man of the hour," Che Guevara said of Mr Kabila in 1965. Thirty-two years on, it seems his time has come.



Mobutu stole profits of mineral wealth

## Superstar eclipsed by greed

**P**RESIDENT MOBUTU, his skin loose and greyish with an illness that has rotted his bones and extinguished his superstar glow, yesterday offered his resignation to save a state as cancerous as his body. Just as he was largely responsible for the spread of the disease now killing him, so Africa's last dictator sealed his own fate by installing a system for which a new term had to be coined: kleptocracy.

Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu wa za Banga, 66, is not as mad or bad as many African leaders of his generation. He did not proclaim himself Emperor, like Jean-Bedel Bokassa, or "King of Scotland" like Idi Amin. Nor did he slaughter his subjects

he murdered his political opponents, but did not keep bits of children in his refrigerator. But he did steal. He took from Zaire the profits of its vast mineral wealth and stole the dignity of its people.

After 32 years of his rule, much of Zaire is back in the Iron Age. Trees grow up through the main streets of cities of hundreds of thousands of people where, as in Manono, they have not seen a car or radio for 15 years.

He was able to plunder the state coffers because until 1989 the West saw him as the only man capable of holding Zaire's 250 tribes together, and because Washington saw him as a bulwark against the spread of communism.

Mr Mobutu's first contacts with the West came in the late 1950s when he worked as a freelance reporter with a French news agency and caught the eye of the CIA. He was encouraged to join the army and embark on a career that would result in his self-appointment as "marshal" and "father of the nation".

Mr Mobutu, who had stashed away an estimated \$9 billion (£5 billion), turned to voodoo priests for guidance. He took the potions of the marabouts from Senegal and Benin to treat the prostate cancer killing him.

Mr Mobutu's legacy is a country in which the only way to survive is by theft, guile and the ability to suffer.

## US air chiefs test 'gay pilot suicide' theory

**L**os Angeles: The US Air Force is looking into reports that one of its pilots deliberately crashed his plane out of fear that a former lover might reveal their alleged homosexual affair. (Giles Whittell writes).

Captain Craig Button flew 800 miles off course during a training mission and crashed

his A10 "Warthog" aircraft into a mountain in the Colorado Rockies last month.

Investigators now consider the most plausible explanation, according to an unnamed military source quoted in the *Tucson Citizen* newspaper, which also reported claims by one of Captain Button's fellow officers that

### Shot Gypsy beatified by Pope

FROM REUTER  
IN ROME

A GYPSY shot by firing squad during the Spanish Civil War was beatified by the Pope yesterday, becoming the first member of the nomadic people to take the road to Roman Catholic sainthood.

Thousands of European Gypsies were among the 40,000 people who attended a Mass in St Peter's Square to witness the celebration of Ceferino Jimenez Malla, an illiterate gypsy horse trader known as El Pele.

The wailing of a gypsy violin and a soulful Spanish guitar mingled with the traditional Latin chanting of a choir in one of the Vatican's most colourful Masses. Many of the pilgrims, most from Spain, wore traditional clothes including bright bandanas. The Pope was also brightly clad with vestments of fiery red, yellow and orange.

Jimenez was one of five people the Pope declared blessed by the Church. The Gypsy, who lived near Barbastro, northeast of Zaragoza, tried to improve his people's relations with non-Gypsies. Deeply religious, he was arrested in July 1936 by an anti-clerical militia after he publicly defended a priest.

When asked if he had any weapons, Jimenez, 75, extracted a rosary from his pocket. He was killed later by firing squad with a number of priests and others arrested by forces opposed to Franco.

The Pope said that today's Gypsies, of whom there are between seven and ten million in Europe, should see Jimenez as a model because he tried to sow harmony among diverse people.

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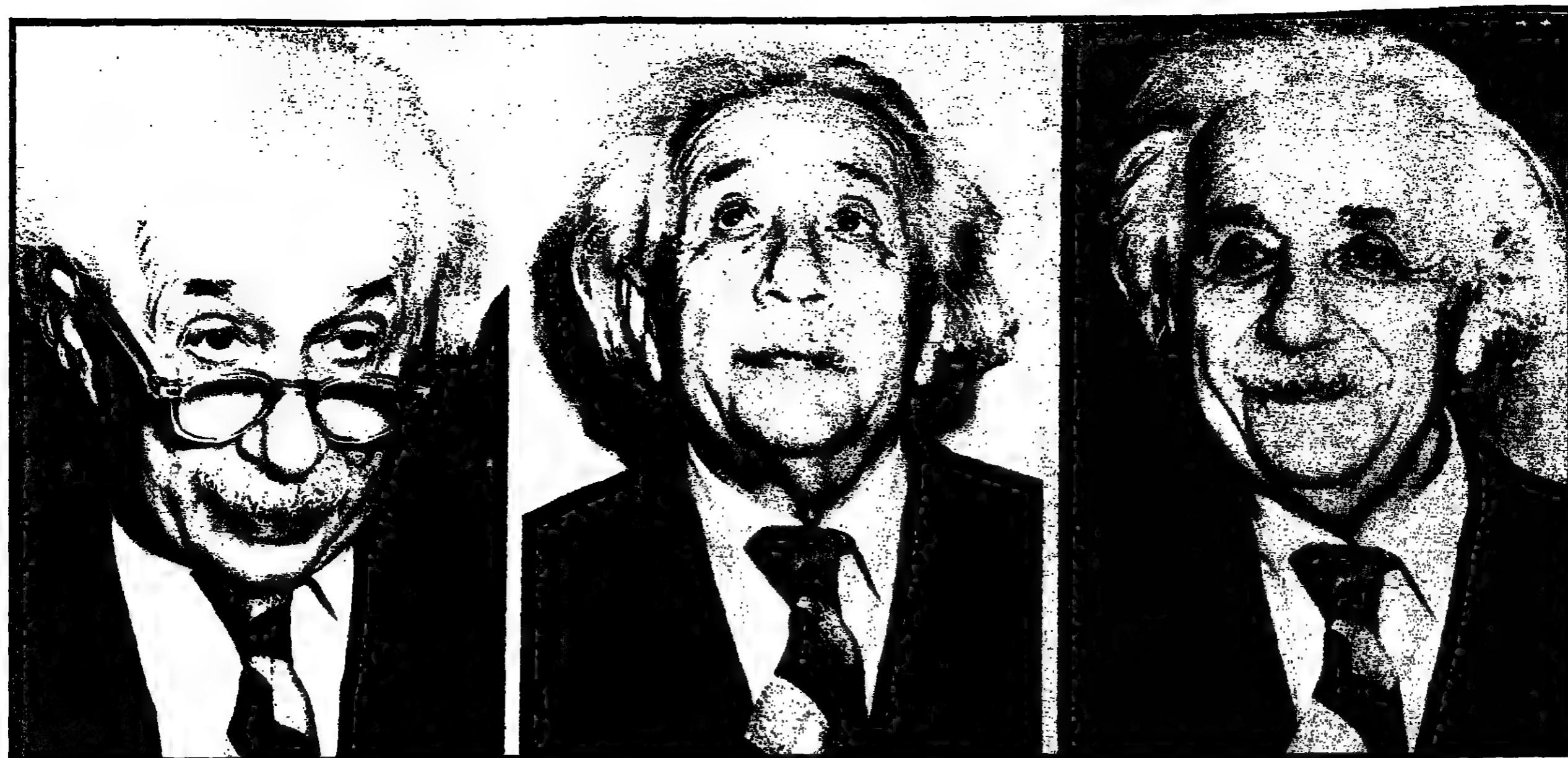
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TIMOS



Albert Einstein: transformed the entire understanding of physical science. John Horgan's book, *The End of Science*, argues that most of the great scientific discoveries have been made and we may never again see work like Einstein's.

## Is science nearing the final frontier?

If there is one thing scientists hate to hear, it is that the game's over. Raised on the belief of an endless frontier of discovery, they recoil from the suggestion that most of the best things have already been located. If they have, if Newton, Darwin, Einstein and half-a-dozen other giants have already appropriated the great themes — then today's scientists can hope to contribute no more than a few grace notes to the symphony of science.

A book to be published here next week, *The End of Science*, argues persuasively that this is the case. Its author, Mr John Horgan, is a senior writer on *Scientific American*, who has interviewed many of today's leading scientists and philosophers of science. The shock of realising that science might have an end came to him, he says, when he was talking to Sir Roger Penrose, the Oxford mathematician and physicist.

"Solving mysteries is a wonderful thing to do," Sir Roger said. "And if they were all solved, somehow, that would be rather boring." Until then, Mr Horgan says, "I believed what most people believe — that we would have a succession of great revolutions and profound discoveries for ever." That was why, after majoring in English at Columbia University in New York, he had abandoned literary criticism for the nonsense approach of science and become a science writer.

"I had taken it for granted that science was open-ended, even infinite," he writes. Triggered by Sir Roger's remark, he became obsessed with the issue. "What are the limits of science? Is it any? Is science infinite, or is it mortal as we are? If the latter, is the end in sight? Is it upon us?"

The conventional answer is to point to the large areas of ignorance that remain. All

The great days of scientific discovery are nearing an end, according to a controversial book out next week. Nigel Hawkes reports



John Horgan denounces in the US

grist to science's mill. But even if we accept there is a lot to learn about how a single cell becomes an animal, or what causes cancer, nobody is going to re-invent natural selection, relativity or the genetic code. Like poors forever in the shadow of Shakespeare and Dante, today's scientists bear a heavy burden.

Mr Horgan says: "These theories are not merely beautiful; they are also true, empirically true, in the way no work of art can be."

Borrowing the ideas of literary criticism, he argues that much of modern science has been forced to become ironic. Trying to live with what the critic Harold Bloom called "the embarrassments of a tradition grown too wealthy to need anything more", scientists either become puzzle-solvers, tidy up odd corners, or pursue science in a speculative, post-empirical mode.

Ironic science resembles literary criticism in that it offers points of view which are, at best, interesting, which prove further comment." Mr Horgan argues. "But it does not converge on the truth."

**B**y his definition, large areas of cosmology and physics, chaos theory, complexity, and much of the work in consciousness qualities as "ironic science". Professor Stephen Hawking, with his talk of naked singularities and other esoterica, is, he

know how the Universe began, how life evolved, and what matter is made of, you cannot discover these things anew. The real question is whether any of the unsolved problems, of which there are plenty, lend themselves to solutions of such a general and universal nature.

If they do not, then the focus of scientific discovery is already narrowing. Since the triumphs of the 1960s — the genetic code, plate tectonics, and the microwave background radiation that went a long way towards proving the Big Bang — genuine scientific revolutions have been in short supply.

**T**here are more scientists alive today, spending more money on research, than ever. Yet most of the great discoveries of the 19th and 20th centuries were made before the advent of state sponsorship, when the scientific enterprise was a fraction of its present size.

Were the scientists who made these discoveries brighter than today's? That seems unlikely. A far more plausible explanation is that fundamental science has already entered a period of diminished returns.

"Look, don't get me wrong," says Mr Horgan. "There are lots of important things still to study, and applied science and engineering can go on for ever. I hope we get a cure for cancer, and for mental disease, though there are few real signs of progress."

"But if we do, what I am saying is that they will fall within the framework of understanding we already have. If one believes in science, one must accept the possibility — even the probability — that the great era of scientific discovery is over."

• *The End of Science*, published by Little, Brown, £18.99

### A challenge to Einstein's theory

## Battle of the bulge

**E**XTRAORDINARY claims demand extraordinary evidence. When two weeks ago, two physicists claimed that the Universe is not the same in all directions, there was a sharp intake of breath. Now, after looking at the evidence, most of their colleagues seem to have concluded that they have failed to make their case.

To the layman, the claim may not seem so outlandish. After all, we are used to things having an up and down, a left and a right, a north and a south. Normal things are not the same in all directions. But to show that the universe as a whole behaves differently, depending which way you slice it has momentous implications. For a start, it would overturn Einstein's theory of relativity, which holds that physical laws are the same everywhere in the universe.

The physicists, Dr Borge Ralston, of the University of Rochester in New York, and Dr John Ralston, of the University of Kansas, analysed 160 observations of distant galaxies made with radio telescopes and found that radio signals coming from one direction — the constellation Sextans — appeared minutely different from the ones originating 90 degrees away in the sky. The polarisation, or the preferred direction of oscillation, of the radio waves differed, depending on which direction the physicists looked.

The radiation they studied, called electro-

magnetic synchrotron radiation, is highly plane-polarised, which means that its electric field oscillates in one preferred direction, the plane of polarisation. As the waves travel through space, intergalactic magnetic fields and charged particles can rotate the plane of polarisation, in a process called Faraday rotation.

In *Physical Review Letters*, the physicists said that even when this is allowed for, the plane of polarisation undergoes a further twist — and that this depends on the direction in which the source is moving through space. This would directly contradict the belief that space is isotropic (the same in all directions) and homogenous (the same in all places).

Critics argue that it is wrong to assume that all radio galaxies emit radiation of a single, predictable polarisation. They also say that the data is old, dating from before 1980, and that the effect would vanish if a newer, larger set of data were used.

Dr Ralston says that if the observations are confirmed, they could indicate, for example, that the Big Bang was not as perfect as always assumed, but may have bulged out more in one direction than another. It could be that hypothetical particles called axions could be twisting the radio waves. But because nobody has ever seen one, that may be stretching credibility too far.

### Ancestral line of a fine wine

**T**HE average wine buff might hazard a guess at the ancestry of the cabernet sauvignon grape as a cross between the cabernet franc and the sauvignon blanc grape. The true bordeaux expert would demur. The origins of this fine grape, the basis of claret, have been variously attributed to Spain and even Central Asia.

Now genetic analysis has proved the amateur right and the experts wrong. Professor Carole Meredith and John Bowers of the University of California at Davis used genetic "fingerprinting" to examine 51 grape varieties. Reporting in *Nature Genetics*, they conclude that cabernet sauvignon was a cross, which probably occurred accidentally some time in the 17th century, between its similarly named parents. Professor Meredith says: "A close link between cabernet sauvignon and cabernet franc had been suspected, but no one had any idea that sauvignon blanc was related."

### Solving an ancient jigsaw

**D**ATA from the European Space Agency satellite ERS-1 has been used to fill in the blanks in the history of Antarctica. The results confirm the existence of a missing piece of the jigsaw that made up Gondwanaland 180 million years ago. Today's continents can be fitted together to recreate the supercontinent, but only if an extra piece, called the Bellingshausen Plate, is used to fill a gap where New Zealand broke away from Antarctica. This plate can no longer be seen, so must have fused with the Antarctic plate later and lost its identity. Now Drs Seymour Laxon of the Mullard Space Science Laboratory in Surrey and David McAdoo of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have proved it existed by mapping the sea floor using ERS-1 instruments to measure tiny variations in the sea surface, reflecting changes in the Earth's gravitational pull caused by mountains and valleys on the seafloor.

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# surviving the slimming season

In part one of a series for slimmers and those who have to live with them, Nigella Lawson and Valerie Grove reveal the secrets of their diets.

TOMORROW

Why slimmers are  
so scarce in restaurants

**N**ever say diet — that's if you really want to lose weight. I do not mean by this to invoke the Geoffrey Cawton Dieting-Makes-you-Fat school of nutritional thought, or the Susie Orbach Fat-is-a-Feminist-Issue school of gender-conscious thought; I mean it quite literally: diet all you like, but tell no one.

The normal anti-diet approach — the one that says that starving yourself inevitably leads to binging and that slowing down your metabolism by excessively reducing your calorie intake will make you put on weight more easily — has a lot going for it, the truth for one thing.

Dieting doesn't have to involve the persecution of the

foodstuffs are really just finding ways of eating without it seeming as if they are.

If you just keep your eating habits to yourself it will be much easier to curb your excesses. No one will be trying to push another bowl of pudding on you or insist that you finish up your sautéed potatoes. Unless you draw attention to it, they won't notice whether you've eaten them up or not. They have better things to think about. But there seem to be some self-obsessed dieters who want to have their every mouthful drawn attention to: why else go into a restaurant and start haggling with the chef via the happiness waiter about how the food is going to be cooked?

Take it from someone who is both very greedy and who worked as a restaurant critic for 12 years: it is easy to lose weight by eating in restaurants. If you're greedy (and carry excess weight) then the chances are it's the portions you give yourself to eat at home that have made you fat. In a restaurant there are no second helpings, in my book, that's a diet.

What's more, in a restaurant there's always something plain and relatively low-fat on the menu, especially now that caloric fashions are, for saucier grills and umptuous neofatissime constructions. Anyway, it is still the case that even high-fat food is relatively low in calories in restaurants: the portions are just not large enough to add up to much. Indeed, I feel positively virtuous eating my way through an entire, rhapsodically good pig's trotter at the newly opened Novelli. At the other end of the scale, with the mashed potato that came with it, I wouldn't have filled even half of my serving spoons at home. I don't say that as a complaint, but as cause for celebration: it makes it easier to eat food that at home you might refrain from eating.

**G**oing to eat in people's houses can be harder. At least I found that, that the hardest obstacle when I had to lose the post-baby poundage. But then, because I write about food, I have to eat third helpings before people believe that I find their food delicious. You see? Everyone has their own excuse.)

Nigella Lawson

self-successful dieting, indeed, mustn't and what is more, it shouldn't involve the persecution of others. If you want to lose weight, do, but don't cause the suffering of innocent victims. Keep quiet about it. I learnt this the hard way when I put on stones after the birth of my first child. I made the preliminary mistake of telling people that I had to lose weight. But I learnt better. The reasons for keeping trim are threefold: talking about dieting is a bore; everyone will try, if only out of politeness, to talk you out of it; and, crucially, if you tell people you need to lose weight they will notice that perhaps you do.

If you don't tell them you're on a diet they won't even notice. I have come to the conclusion that there are more people practising this art than let on. All those people who won't eat with you and profess all sorts of intolerances to supposedly weight-inducing



It's easiest to lose weight if you feel self-confident, but it is weight loss that makes you self-confident

## Eat like a thin person is the best dietary advice'

My maternal grandmother was of the view (expressed only privately) that vegetarians or people on diets shouldn't accept invitations to dinner. In fact, though, she slaved away resentfully but solicitously to produce alternative dishes. I think these days it would be hard to be quite so anti-vegetarian, but I don't see why diets should be especially catered for. It is always possible, with the minimum of fuss, to eat food that isn't going to cause havoc. Any diet that can't accommodate the occasional lapse (I don't approve of the terminology of sin, or crime, for that matter) is a diet bound to fail.

I'd advise against leaving food on your plate, though. It may have been thought to be genteel once upon a time: I think it's inconsiderate verging on the rude. But if you really do want to leave some food, if the thought of eating whatever it is fills you with panic, then be the one to jump up and clear the plates so no

one else sees. Drink is one thing you need to give up or curb when you're on a diet, but you have an easy excuse here anyway: just say you're driving. Again, there is no need for anyone really to notice. Just let your glass be filled but leave it at that. (Leaving drink in the glass is less rude than leaving food on the plate because no one present has gone to effort to produce it; you don't need to worry about the sensibility of the wine-grower or vintner, after all.)

There is a vexing circularity about the dieting business: it's easiest to lose weight if you feel self-confident, but it is weight loss that makes you self-confident. You can work the con trick on yourself. Just as Pascal believed that the act of going to church, of going through the motions of the faithful, leads to faith, so if you act thin, will you get thin. Eat like a thin person is the best form of dietary advice. And behave like a thin person, too, which means don't go on about being fat and never even mention the word diet — even to yourself.

# 'By June I'll be as spiky as a needle. By Christmas I'll be a cushion'

Farewell croissants and jam, my annual war on flab is declared

**E**lit was right: April is the cruellest month. When the lilac is in bloom, I start my annual fitness boom, and embark on trying to shed the ten pounds which, like Mr Micawber's sixpence, hang flabbily between me and happiness.

I once confided to Eleanor Bron over lunch that I seem to have a winter weight and a summer weight, and what I longed to be was my summer weight all year round. "Why?" she said, coolly. "Why don't you just accept that you have two different weights?" Instead, I continue to be afflicted annually by scales rage. I get matronly and morose by the end of March, and go on a diet-and-exercise jag in order to become svelte and sweet-natured by summer. One year, when I became noticeably leaner, a colleague left a note on my typewriter:

Said the Features Ed to Miss Valerie:

"It's clear that you count every calorie. Well, slim if you must. But lose half your bust. And you'll only be worth half your salary."

The springtime fasting began in undergraduate days. I went to interview Miss World for the student paper and asked her the secret of eternal slenderness. She drawled: "Don't eat." Testing the truth of this theory, I managed to dwindle into the silken May Ball gown my sister had made for me.

Foolishly, I left my diary lying around with a record of my daily food intake: "I Ryvita, I boiled egg, black coffee," etc., and then found a waggish friend had filled in the ensuing days with "2 peas, 1 lettuce leaf, three blades grass", followed by a black-lined day: "R.I.P. dear V."

For the moment, no breakfast croissant with apricot jam passes my lips. Instead, I confront a platter of sliced orange, pear, apple and mango, prepared by my husband, artlessly and lovingly. No, not lovingly, tyrannically. He cannot stand my morning yell of rage on the bathroom scales, followed by my pigish consumption of the wrong kind of breakfast.

The beady-eyed husband always knows when I have hacked into the bribe (Dr Stuttaford says bribe is good for you) and finished off the red wine (Dr Stuttaford says two glasses are obligatory every evening). The children can never be suspected, since they irritably eat nothing but cereals, crisps, cake and chocolate, and never put on an ounce.

Last week I could not avoid attending three of the dieter's pitiful official luncheons and dinners in great chandeliered rooms with forests of wine-



Valerie Grove

glasses. Every meal started with some rich moussey fish thing, then some chicken thing with large heads of broccoli and mast potatoes, then some rich creamy sweet thing, and then chocolatey mint things with coffee and port. Curse them! I know that going to a dinner does not mean you have to eat everything they plonk in front of you, but sitting among strangers and listening to speeches always makes you consume six times more than anyone should.

To counteract this bloating regime, I go to my exercise class every other day, including Sunday. If Diana, Princess of Wales can do it, surely I can. A mere 70 paces from my door is the Coolhurst Fitness Studio, opened six years ago by the amazing Mandy, a former ballet dancer who even now, during her third pregnancy, is a sylph.

I find aerobics addictive, anti-depressant and alluringly effective. Once I venture back to class, I need my daily fix. Today it was Total Sculpt with Louise, a really tough class with elastic bands and weights.

**W**eights: I never thought I'd take up power-walking, but on my morning dog-walk I kept seeing Frank Bruno's trainer whizzing past me carrying dumbbells, and felt feebly under-exercised. So I've bought a pair of modest two-pounders. On Hampstead Heath any loony behaviour is ignored — walking backwards uphill to hone the hamstrings, hugging trees — so a madwoman flailing her triceps as she walks excites no curiosity whatever.

The writer Sue Limb once remarked that every woman decides at a certain point in her life whether she is going to age into a needle or a cushion. Very true. By June I shall be spiky as a needle. Next Christmas I shall veer recklessly towards the cushion type, and next spring, dammit, I shall be angrily back at the aerobics, the weights and the fruit fast again. Seven pounds still to go. Kindly peel me a grape.

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# THE ROY STRONG DIARIES 1967-1987

As Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, Sir Roy Strong had daily encounters with the most powerful people in the land. But despite his unhappy suburban origins he was far from being dazzled by the great and the good, as his waspish diaries record

**February 15, 1976**

The world continues to be full of gossip about John Pope-Hennessy leaving the British Museum. An emergency meeting of the Trustees was held, which suggests something serious as they meet monthly. An embargo on press comment has come down. No paper has carried the story. It was rumoured that he was involved in the Knightsbridge Barracks Guards case. He was involved in a similar scandal in New York. Whatever it is, it is a mighty fall by a mighty man.

**March**

Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon finally separated during the week of the 17th-18th. The National Theatre has opened. We went three times. We saw HRH Margaret in the interval on the second night. She was in very good form and she rang through and chatted away to me the day that the separation was announced as a coming certainty. One feels that she is relieved. She will have a terrible time making a new existence for herself as she lacks application and has a bright but untrained mind. Jackie Onassis asked us to lunch at the Ritz which looked very run-down.

**April 8**

We dined at 10 Downing Street. The venue was moved from Lancaster House when Callaghan ceased to be the Foreign Secretary and became PM. There is something terribly institutional about Government entertaining. I sat between the wife of the editor of *The Financial Times* who was boring and Lady Wright, a laconic wife of an ambassador who was now secretary of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Committee.

The dinner was for the Empress of Persia, who, as usual, looked stunning in her couture clothes, a sparkling embroidered top which hung over a skirt of plain silk of understated richness which moved marvellously. She made all the other women look ordinary.

Mrs Callaghan is tall and to the point. She is an intelligent woman with dark brown hair and a minimum of make-up. Her pale yellow evening dress did not sit happily upon her. She is no way a *grande dame* but a middle-class, educated, reforming mum. Callaghan strikes one as jovial, although I wasn't sure how bright he was; neither of us had an opportunity to speak to him properly. It was an odd gathering.

concentrate on the men. Althorp is now totally transformed by her from a museum into a home again.

Her own niche, thanks to the hand of Colefax & Fowler, is resplendent with a vast canopy bed, gilded mirrors, tables draped to the ground with heavily fringed cloths and everything arranged, dusted and polished to the nines. Her own little sitting-room has walls of thick striped damask. Much of the Hill Street furniture and all the bronzes are not only here but scattered all over the house. The bedroom is so splendid that Johnnie Spencer said that the only thing out of keeping in it was himself. She is marvellous at supporting him and deferring to his views, forever saying: "Oh Johnnie, you must tell this or that story, you're so wonderful."

**July 12**  
We dined at a huge dinner given by John and Alida Russell in Chester Square for Mrs Thatcher for which we had been booked seemingly last year. I suppose that there must have been thirty for dinner and as many after. It was very ostentatious, with too many hired menservants. I counted six, which is staggering for a London dinner.

**March 18, 1977**

Lecturing at Northampton we stayed at Althorp. Raine, ex Lady Dartmouth, and now the new Lady Spencer, reigns triumphant. Johnnie [Spencer] is about fifty, rather dull but very well meaning and hugely affectionate. It is a great amour and they clasp hands at every opportunity. Raine has in many ways grown up. This time she actually took notice of Julia [Strong's wife] and didn't, as she normally does,

the Lichfields, Norman St John-Stevens, Davina Woodhouse and Derek Hart.

The drawing-room at Kensington Palace presented its usual scene. HRH in plummy red with a gold belt, smoking and drinking whisky, in good form surrounded by a motley crowd, some of whose identity we never established but included the Harlech, the Rosses, the Tennants, a young Bacon boy, a Ramsay and Roddy (Llewellyn). We'd never met him before. He was like Tony round again, thirtyish, rather dapper, but very polite and assigned to a kind of "host" role getting drinks and ferrying them to people. HRH showed no overt interest in him, although he would spring up and actively join in anything that she wanted.

Anne Rosse, in her usual low-cut dress with a slit hemline and manicured in diamond stars, was very unhappy. It did seem rather tactless to ask Anne and Michael with Roddy there. She was in fact shocked and confided her embarrassment at being present at a party where her own son was replaced before her eyes by Roddy. I asked the million-dollar question, "Does Roddy stay here?" "Yes," was the reply. He's agreeable, not nearly as bright as Tony, rather silly and giggly, but kind, and she hasn't had much of that.

At one moment we were about to safely plunge for the exit when HRH clapped her hands and poor Harold Acton, seventy-three and overtired, had to sing two songs in Chinese and then she headed for the piano. I knew that we were stuck and it was Scottish ballads until 2am, with Tony McEwen bearing the brunt of it, poor soul. HRH only yielded her sceptre once to poor Leonora Lichfield. They arrived at midnight and HRH told them that they had been bidden for 10.30pm.

**December 6**  
We are bidden to lunch by Queen Elizabeth. There were the usual welcoming corsets, backed this time by the sight at the rear of the famous "drunken" butler we'd once seen fall backwards on a sofa with a trifle at George Weidenfeld's. Sir Alastair Aird and Sir Martin Gilliat as usual were doing the introductions. Clarence House is really like a very grand country house in London.

**T**he Ritz crackers as usual were handed around in the packet to what was a formidable line-up, too large for cosiness really, about twenty-five in all, and too many old people. I sat between the Dowager Lady Hambleden and Ruth Fermoy, who is a thoroughly good-nonsense sort. I'd never realised that her daughter was the displaced Lady Spencer and all the troubles when Raine [Dart-



Diana was hard.  
There was no  
pulling together,  
no common  
objectives



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Continued on Page 17



**Prince Charles has a wonderful sense of humour and great warmth of personality... on the other hand he did not look after Diana enough**

**Continued from Page 16**  
rushed to his bedside. It is all rather sad and pathetic and deeply embarrassing for the Queen surely? During this period Peter Townsend published his memoirs of their attachment, an act in the worst taste. Derek Hart said that she never did love him. One does feel rather sorry for her but she does so very little to help herself.

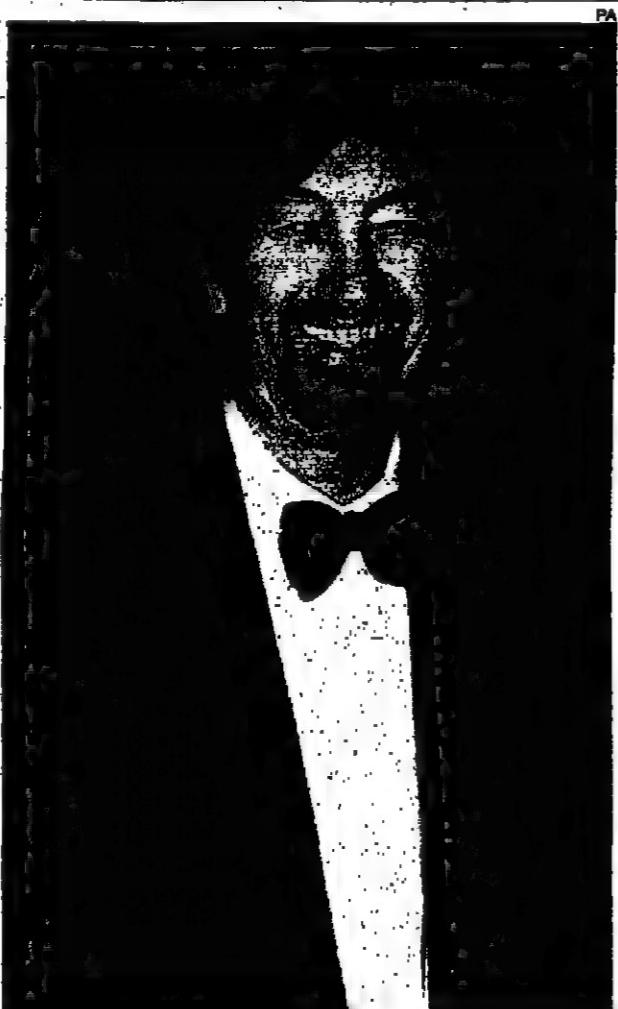
**April 16-17, 1978**  
We arrived in our decrepit vehicle at Windsor Castle. It was a glorious spring day, the hedgerows had suddenly burst into green and the sky was cloudless.

**A**t dinner I found myself talking non-stop to Prince Philip, who really looks remarkable for his age. He seemed in a way more muted and less aggressive than I last remembered him, but just as opinionated, full of the woes of Britain, groaning about the evils of Capital Gains Tax, the stifling of patronage, and enunciating all the other reactionary attitudes one rather suspected.

At that moment the children surfaced. Prince Andrew, tallest and thinnest of the boys, is now seventeen and living up in his butch appearance and sensuous lips to his "Randy Andy" image, and David Linley, the duplicate of Tony Snowdon. He is as tiny as his parents and about the same age as Prince Andrew. When asked by the Prime Minister [James Callaghan] what he wanted to be, Princess Margaret replied, "A carpenter", to which she added, "Cuzin was a carpenter".

**May 31, 1978**  
Poor HRH Margaret was carted off to hospital with hepatitis. What a tragedy it has all been and needlessly. And now the divorce with Snowdon is announced. How little people will understand the agonies which she has gone through as a practising Anglican to let the divorce happen. How silly but understandable to fall for Roddy and what an inevitable end. The loneliness of it all for her must be terrible.

**November 28, 1979**  
Dinner with Gerald Ellison, Bishop of London, was in honour of the Kents. It was the first time that we had seen her for nearly a year. She looked so much better but older, with less hair, which in fact was an improvement on the inflated Sixties look which she had clinging on to for far too long. Music was now her thing and she had been going to rehearsals with the Bach Choir. We enjoyed her account of Denis Thatcher asking her to arrange for him to meet the Duke of Edinburgh privately so that he could discuss how



**Trevor Nunn was furious and a tirade followed... Arrogance knew no bounds**

he should handle being married to a woman at the centre of affairs!

**November 4, 1981**  
The day of the opening of *The Splendours of the Gonzagas*. The vast lead-up to this, above all its inauguration by the Prince and Princess of Wales, endowed the whole occasion with an air of high expectancy.

The Princess looked sensational, her dress cut straight across revealing the by now famous shoulders, but with a triple choker of pearls fastened with a diamond clip around her neck in the manner of Queen Alexandra. She has a clear complexion and lustrous blue eyes. Tonight she seemed a large girl in a billowing white dress full-skirted to the ground with a broad blue ribbon at the waist. More petticoats, however, Julia observed, were called for. How can I describe her? Well, after the event, I would categorise her as Eliza Doolittle at the embassy ball! Beautiful, in a way like a young colt, immensely well-meaning, unformed, a typical product of an upper-class girls' school. But she has so much to learn, which she will, unless she gets bored with it and it all sorts. At the moment she has not learned the royal technique of asking questions. Nervous certainly, so I placed myself next to her and, as I promised Edward Adeane, kept an eye on her the whole time. Her accent is really rather awful considering that she is an earl's daughter. Not an upper-class drawl, at all but rather tuneless and, dare I say it, a bit

common, as though it were the fashion to learn to talk down. That is what I meant by Eliza at the ball.

He, in sharp contrast, is now immensely developed. Now thinner than ever, not only physically, but his hair as well. But he is incredibly easy and so much more assured and mature. Dignity, yes, but with a wonderful sense of humour and a great warmth of personality (which she has too).

On the other hand I did not think that he looked after her enough.

**March 20-21, 1982**  
We were bidden by Queen Elizabeth once again to what I always refer to as the Royal Lodge Arts Festival. To describe Queen Elizabeth in her eighty-second year as remarkable would be an understatement. She seemed younger than ever. Arms extended in thrilled pleasure at our arrival. The face seemed remarkably unlined, the hair as ever with combs tucked into it, which she has to push back in from time to time, and the same upright stance. And on her feet, the whole time it seemed. She positively darted around the room. Sitting for her was less a means of rest than an opportunity to get her guests on the side to have a good gossip. "Let's sit down," she typically said to me. And off we went into a corner of the room where we regaled each other with all the chat.

Fred Ashton later told me that once he had been sitting on the loo when the bathroom door was flung open by Queen Elizabeth who announced with a

Princess Charles doesn't like me," she chorused on. "I'm regarded as the family's highest risk factor. In fact I'm devoted to him and it's not me who's the risk. The time bomb is Diana. Being rude to servants is the lowest thing you can do and she does it."

She then listed off the members of the private entourage who had gone. No one knows this. The Prince is left increasingly isolated. The Queen is withdrawn. Not that the Kent family sounded that much united. The women that make up the Royal Family at the moment would make a fascinating study so disparate are they in looks, intellect and motivation.

**March 18, 1986**  
I went to see the Duchess of York at Buckingham Palace. There she was in a small office with a secretary lady-in-waiting on the top floor in the old nursery suite. This had all arisen because she had heard from Bill Heseltine [The Queen's Private Secretary] that I was to do a television series on the royal gardens and she saw a book in it. So did I, so that was soon settled. She is strikingly refreshing, direct and intelligent, a huge bonus I would have thought. No beauty at all, but good Sloane Street features with

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**The Duchess of York is strikingly direct and intelligent... but she is no beauty**

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**ARTS  
THE WEEK  
AHEAD**


**VISUAL ART**  
From Habitat to the British Museum: *Collected* turns London snapper-happy  
OPEN: Now  
REVIEW: Tomorrow



**THEATRE**  
Callas is the subject of Terrence McNally's new play, *Master Class*, at the Queen's Theatre  
OPENS: Tomorrow  
REVIEW: Thursday



**POP**  
Killing us softly: the Fugees slide gracefully into Wembley Arena  
GIG: Tomorrow  
REVIEW: Thursday



**DANCE**  
Dutch treat: Jiri Kylian brings the young dancers of NDT2 to the Peacock Theatre  
OPENS: Thursday  
REVIEW: Saturday

**G**eorge Steiner wrote a masterly armoured article recently on American culture in which, as I understand it, he said that its greatest 20th-century claim was as receiver and conservator of European goods and European minds past and present. Clearly he found opponents and his argument has many holes in it. But on a brief visit to New York last week I happened by chance to go to four places in the space of about 48 hours which offer some sort of anecdotal confirmation and affirmation of the Steiner thesis.

Wagner was on at the Metropolitan Opera House; Ibsen starred on Broadway; the Nasher collection of 20th-century sculpture — overwhelmingly European — filled the Guggenheim; and the Frick Museum, one of the greatest private collections in the world, has, I think, not one American artist on its walls.

This is not to denigrate what is happening because all four visits were exhilarating, but, in conjunction with Steiner's essay, it pro-

vides one way of looking at the current American experience.

*Das Rheingold* and *Die Walküre* were the two exceptional productions I saw in the Met's Ring cycle. I have hesitated on the brink of Wagnerianism for some time, but this production plunged me into the wonder of the man and his work.

For me one of the great strengths of the production was its traditional look. The Rhine was made to look like the Rhine. Valhalla was

monumental at the back of the stage, both ancient and, in its crush of towers on a rock, clearly echoing Manhattan, whose massive resources made this as big a spectacle as I have seen in any musical theatre. The tricks — the Toad and the Snake for instance — were pulled off with Barnum and Bailey audacity. The singing, in my view, was excellent through-

out, although Wagner buffs would probably give the palm to Haitink's conducting at the Royal Opera House.

The Nibelungs were dwarfish, rat-scurrying, fathom-five creatures.

The gods came out of

ancient storybooks. In short, in the New World renewed life was given to one of the Old World's greatest masterpieces. It is a massive hit and goes a little way to underlining Steiner's point.

Across Central Park at the Guggenheim, in which a pile of raincoats would look stylish such is the magnificence of the place itself, two great American benefactors, one of whom is still alive, showed off a modest percentage of their colossal collections. It made a fine history of 20th-century sculpture and most of it, in my view all that was best, was European —

Thomas More and Thomas Cromwell, Corot's *The Lake*, Gainsborough's *St James's Park*, the two Titians. Perhaps Frick was the great precursor.

Finally, there was *A Doll's House*, one of many British productions in New York. In a context from which Arthur Miller and David Mamet flee to London to put on their new plays, Thérèse Flot has taken one of Europe's masters and put it up beside the musicals.

This is not meant to be negative about America, as sometimes I have been. The sense I had in those places was one of privilege and enormous pleasure. And of course the American contribution to the 20th-century arts — film, music (jazz-rooted) and television — as well as its unarguable record in literature makes a big hole in Steiner's argument. Nevertheless

at a time when Europe is edgy about its identity, it is not a bad moment to listen to our most polemical polymath who might be on the scent of something.

If a great city is to be distinguished by one thing only, then the best thing about London is its parks. But Central Park in New York is perhaps the most vivid and extraordinary in the world. Simply to exist at all on a crowded island so greedy for land is a miracle. But at the weekend it does not so much exist as jump. If someone were to take off an invisible dome above the park they would see in it activity fit to rival the most crowded bee-hive.

In the space of about 500 yards between the other Sunday it was overtaken by rollerskaters, serious Kenyan marathon runners, other marathon runners of all shapes, sizes and speeds, power walkers, cyclists, skaters pushing pushchairs and leading panting dogs, everyone on a staircase of intense self-improvement. The fact that no one bumps into each other in such a crowded space is a wonder of human organisation.

Add to that the Tai Chi classes, the Bulgarian folk group, the children playing baseball, the jugglers and bringers of the craft skills, musicians, college jazz bands and threading through the park, elegant ladies from the Upper East Side taking their daily stroll, and you have a portrait of America at its zesty, exuberant, heterogeneous best. After all that activity and vivacity, the Metropolitan Museum, which backs into the park, seems not only a palace but also a refuge.

Between them, though, the Metropolitan Museum, with its magnificent current exhibition on Byzantium for instance, and Central Park, with its weekly human spectacular, reinforce the best dreams of America.

# Lust in the eye of the beholder

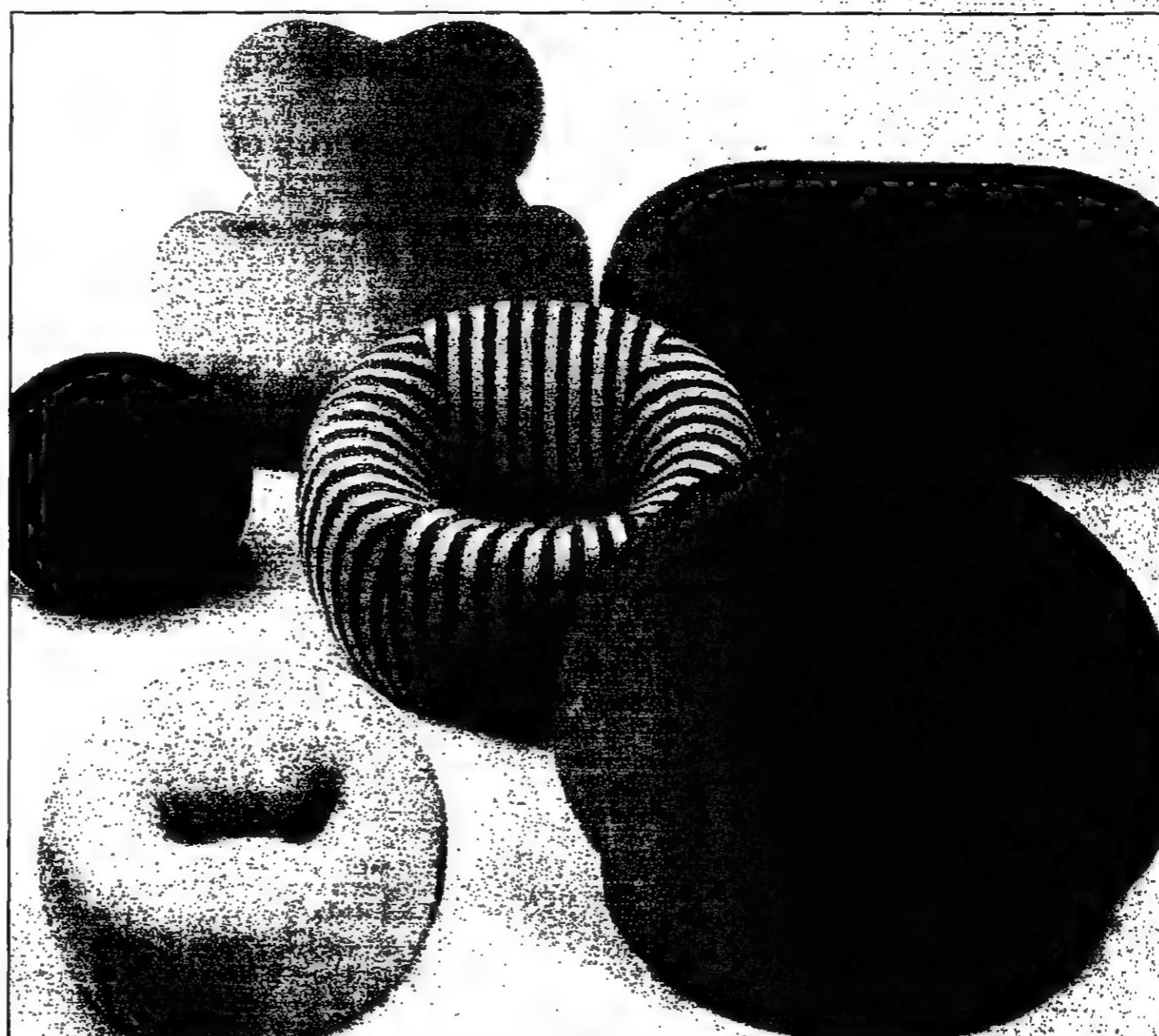
**VISUAL ART:** John Russell Taylor stays cool at the Design Museum's chronology of erotic obsession

**F**rom Decadence to decadence. Fin de Siècle to fin de siècle: that appears to be the trajectory described by the Design Museum's new show for the summer, *The Power of Erotic Design*. Though fashion seems to go in circles, however, it never comes back to exactly the same place, and a century which begins and ends erotically obsessed is bound to have exchanged its old obsessions for new ones somewhere along the way.

Also its manner of expressing them. In olden days a glimpse of stocking...? Yes, to an extent. But if it comes to flagrant sexuality, the raunchier corners of the Internet offer little advance on Aubrey Beardsley and Franz von Bayros. The main difference is that in their day such perverse masterpieces as Beardsley's *Lysistrata* (1896) and von Bayros' *Pictures from the Boudoir of Madame CC* (1911) were published in expensive limited editions and distributed under plain cover, whereas now eroticism runs riot over the billboards of the world. Watered down, no doubt, and rendered glossy, respectable and comfortable to live with, but permeating more than ever before. In the 1890s it constituted a special treat, a special shock, something apart from the everyday business of life. Now it is the primal matter in which we float.

**In the 1890s eroticism constituted a special treat or shock**

And if the associations are sexual, it just proves that Freud was right. It is not hard to carry that line of thought one step further. If the images can mobilise eroticism, then the eroticism can mobilise all sorts of other instincts. Like the desire to drive the right sexy car, or drink the right sexy drink. For this, though, it is desirable that the eroticism be not too overt. We do not want the potential punter to be so turned on by the model draped provocatively across the bonnet that he fails to notice the car. What



If Gaetano Pesce's 1969 UP series of beanbags in assorted brilliant colours subverted anything it was the home rather than the office

we require is for an atmosphere of non-specific eroticism to be created around the sales item in question, so that it takes on sexiness without the audience being conscious of this.

It is noticeable that as the century progresses, erotic content gradually seeps in, becomes a flood, and then is tamed and domesticated. If it is not, then woe betide the designer trying to use it. Sex red in tooth and claw is not comfortable, and when Mario Bellini offered his *Tenerife Office Chair* in 1970, with

its shameless evocation of unmentionable orifices, its flaring red, its rubbery, spongy texture, nobody wanted to buy it, lest it spread riot and ruin in any environment it helped to form. On the other hand,

Gaetano Pesce's UP series of marshalled beanbags in assorted brilliant colours, sticking at general associations, worked well, and at least was subversive, if anything, the home rather than the office.

Of course scandal plays some part, but the scandalous, like Allen Jones's trusted ladies holding

up glass tables or collecting hats and coats, are generally one-offs and are intended to remain so. The show ends with computer screen flickering and Anthon Beeke's "porno" posters for classic theatre productions in Amsterdam vaguely perceptible behind black guaze. (These latter, apparently, had only moderate success because people did not like to pause in front of them long enough to take in the necessary information.) Uncensored eroticism has become a language in modern design. But just because it

whispers of eroticism, it is not itself necessarily erotic in effect. From Decadence to decadence indeed.

Felicien Rops was interested in sex for itself. Elsa Schiaparelli was interested in selling clothes and perfume through sex.

Today all we are left with is form without content. Come back, Mae West, all is forgiven.

• *The Power of Erotic Design* is at the Design Museum, Shad Thames, SE1 0771-403 6933, Mon-Fri 11.30am-6pm, until Oct 12. Admission £5, concessions £3.75

**OPERA:** Paul Daniel bids farewell to Leeds with a new Wagner production for Opera North; plus a return to past glories in Paris

## Taking leave the hard way

**T**here are easier operas to stage than *Tannhäuser*, but under Paul Daniel's musical directorship, Opera North has never shirked a challenge, so this was perhaps a fitting way to mark the end of his regime — especially with the iconoclastic David Fielding making his directorial debut for the company.

Fielding's sets, designed by himself, use only the front part of the Grand Theatre stage. The enhanced projection gives the chorus more impact and does wonders for diction — every word of Rodney Blumer's adroit, sensitive translation was clearly audible — so the effect is claustro-

phobic. The opening scene in the Venusberg is very much School of Aida! One would not expect a Fielding Venusberg to feature Wagner's prescribed grotto with lake, cascades and tropical vegetation, even if the Opera North budget could run to it.

But what we had instead — a bordello illuminated by naked (red) lightbulbs and furnished with armchairs in which masked clients cavort with unclad matkins — was so wilfully "own brand" that it verged on self-parody. Unfortunately, the entire first act was also feebly acted and directed and it was not until the contest in the Wartburg

### Tannhäuser

Leeds

that the intelligent thinking behind the staging emerged. Rigid verticals (the backdrop grid, swords, clenched fist salutes) symbolising the inherent violence of this repressive society contrast with less threatening diagonals (a suspended Madonna statue, a cryptic blue pointer, even the ladies waving their peace fingers like gladiators). It is a nice touch to make the bordello clients identifiable with the easily shocked knights; sexual puritanism and hypocrisy invariably go hand in hand.

There are some stunning stage pictures (lighting designer Peter Mumford) — even the return of the lightbulbs for Walther's Hymn to the Evening Star is atmospherically handled — and the blue-pointer is transformed into a giant conical cylinder (symbolic of divine grace?) that defends diagonally in a powerful final tableau.

One of the reasons *Tannhäuser* is difficult to stage is that the title role is well nigh unsingable. From the time Joseph Tichatschek

roared himself hoarse at the first performance, the part has attracted more shouters than singers. Jeffrey Lawton moderates his tone for intimate moments, but his vocal production is so uneven that there seems no connection between the two. He is at his best when spitting out his loathing of the Pope and his works in the Rome Narration; for the rest he rarely allows one to forget the role's grueling demands.

Rita Cullis, by contrast, fulfills the high expectations of her Elisabeth. Her tone is perfectly even throughout the compass and her intonation secure. She was pleading and poignant in her intercession, affecting in her prayer. Anne-Marie Owens was a red-blooded, impassioned Venus; Keith Latham a bullish Wolfram capable of lyrical things; Norman Bailey a vibrant Landgrave; and Clive Bayley a virile Biterolf.

Lawton has a fine ear for the long Wagnerian line and drew some excellent playing from the orchestra. The potential for yet greater achievements when he takes over at ENO is an exciting prospect.

BARRY MILLINGTON



## Tartan tenor

**D**eprived of *Böldje's* masterpieces for more than 10 years, the audience at the Opéra Comique has welcomed *La Dame blanche* back like a much-loved and long-lost member of the family. Even though Bizet had turned *opéra-comique* in a quite different direction with *Carmen*, it remained firmly in the repertoire until well after the turn of the century.

The present, very welcome revival celebrates a score of complete professional competence and a compositionally tuneful style. Mark Minkowski clearly understands his *Dame blanche* and, given a more consistently gifted cast, could surely have made an even greater success of it. The stage director, Jean-Louis Pichot, is not so sure in his approach but, after an all but disastrous first act, makes something respectable of it.

What saves the production is not so much the outrageously camp Highland costumes of Frédéric Pineau or even the gothic sets of Alexandre-Heyraud, but a quite extraordinary performance from the American tenor Gregory Kunde in the role of Georges Brown, the officer who returns

to Scotland to claim his birthright. Impersonally tall and heroically imperious, he wears his tartan shawl and embarrassing bonnets with a chin-up dignity and delivers his elaborate arias with scarcely a suspicion of strain or concern, top C included.

The only singer in the cast to match him is not, unfortunately, Ghislaine Raphael as the "white lady" herself, but Xénia Konsek as the farmer's wife, Jenny, who more or less disappears after the first act. But, since Jenny has one of the best numbers in the whole opera and since the first act would have collapsed without Konsek's vivacity in carrying it off, it is an acceptable compromise.

Having recently made a mess of updating *Carmen* and having presented an unlikely but far more convincing production of Britten's *One Winged Angel* a couple of months ago, the Opéra Comique seems now to be getting in touch with its traditions again.

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Jeffrey Lawton as Tannhäuser in Opera North's staging

**OPERA**

The Brighton Festival stages the British premiere of von Einem's *Danton's Death*. SHOWS: Wed, Sat. REVIEW: Friday.

**BOOKS**

Spanning the millennium: Ted Hughes presents his *Tales from Ovid*. IN THE SHOPS: Now. REVIEW: Thursday.

**FILM**

Alec Baldwin and Whoopi Goldberg star in Rob Reiner's latest, *Ghosts from the Past*. OPENS: Friday. REVIEW: Thursday.



Worth every tenor? Luciano Pavarotti sings in recital at Covent Garden. CONCERT: Sunday. REVIEW: Next week.

**ARTS**  
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY  
IN SECTION 2

# Dark dawn of a white knight

**LITERATURE:**  
**Paul Barker**  
meets the great  
Russian poet  
Gennady Aygi on  
his reading tour  
of Britain

Pasternak was "like a father" to him. "He was a god, if any human being can be a god. He radiated strength and grace. He combined elegance of Mozart with the music of Beethoven."

Gennady Aygi stretches his arms out, like an evangelist, to home what the great poet and saint meant to him. Aygi ("Ay" in ayah, "gi" as in Gilead) is, many think, Russia's greatest living poet. He has been shortlisted several times for the Nobel prize literature, which the regime, in fact, forced Pasternak to turn down. For the first time, a full collection of Aygi's poems — often lyrical, even dream-like — is published in English translation. He has been in Britain these few days, giving readings to them (with his translator) to packed audiences.

He is a stocky man, with shrewd smiling eyes and now, at 62, a snowy beard. You can see in the peasant ancestry he is so fond of. He is a Chuvash, one of many nationalities still locked in the Russian federation.

Chuvash are descendants of Huns who swept in from Asia in the Dark Ages: they live on the edge of Europe, at a bend in the river 500 miles east of Moscow. Their country is about the size of Wales, with some of the same characteristics. The Chuvash survive, but they are sometimes used of secretiveness. And they their ancient language. Aygi is passionately committed to his homeland ("a charmed to God"). He lists his earliest poems in Chuvash — which has no close linguistic relatives.

Alan did not treat the Chuvash like the Chechens — as the enemy within. But it remained alien territory for foreigners: factories made chemical weapons.

When Peter France, Aygi's dad and translator, finally got in 1989, they told him he was first British visitor since the plutonium. The village streets lined with wooden houses, filled with children and geese, something out of Gogol.

He was Pasternak who persuaded him to start writing in Russian, a young student up in Moscow, the older man's neighbour. "I was never going to be a writer," Aygi says, with a wry smile. "Communism infantilised culture; it could only produce tales. But Russian was the language in which to write,



Gennady Aygi remains passionately committed to the pagan peasant traditions and the language of his secretive Chuvash homeland, 500 miles east of Moscow

about this tragedy." He paid the price. He was reduced to sleeping rough to railway stations, supported by an artistic underground. Friends were sent to the camps or murdered.

Poems were smuggled abroad, but he grew reconciled to never seeing them published within Russia. Does he feel any gratitude to Gorbachev, under whom they were printed "overground" for the first time? "You don't feel grateful to someone for not killing you."

Aygi is not a directly political poet, though the cruelties of Soviet Russia always hover in the background. Fears, he writes, "and the dark of this earthly night". The closest analogy in English literature is Gerard Manley Hopkins' Imagery drawn from nature builds up into a spiritual experience. He also shares Hopkins' love of syntactical innovation. In France's excellent translation, one poem begins with the invocation "Oh

heaven-window!" — pure Hopkinian. Another, *Quietness*, begins:

As if through bloody branches you clamber towards light

Till recently, the Chuvash had their own pagan religion. Aygi's own grandfather was both a peasant and a pagan priest. Aygi says he feels close to this tradition of pantheistic nature-worship. He remembers that, as a child, adults would tell him: "God is in water, God is in every tree." If he was naughty, they would ask him to look up into the sun (symbol of the supreme sky-god) and reflect on his bad behaviour.

The titles of poems often refer to flowers or trees (roses, phloxes, rowans, willows), to open fields (a traditional Chuvash image of spiritual freedom), or to snow. For Aygi whiteness, and light, have something sacred — or magical — about them. He writes:

praise to the colour white —  
god's presence  
in his refuge for doubts

But his spirituality embraces an

**I was never going to be a Soviet writer. Communism infantilised culture; it could only produce fairy tales?**

orthodox Christianity as well as Chuvash paganism. He compares Raoul Wallenberg — saviour of many Hungarian Jews before he was executed in a Soviet prison — to Christ. When he studied at the Literary Institute in Moscow, its library had no Bible. He discov-

ered Christianity, he says, by reading Pascal and Dostoevsky. He rubs his hands vigorously down his sides: "It was like removing a layer of plaster from me like a second birth."

Now, in Yeltsin's Russia, "in the long agony of the system — a system designed to tell lies", the Chechenya massacres have filled him with profound pessimism about humanity: "Our murderous instincts will never be got rid of." The war also showed that Russia still has "boss nations" and "subordinate nations".

But he is not a gloomy poet to meet or to read. Everything is illuminated by the piercing clarity of his images. And, for all his passionate love of nature, he is deeply humane. An extraordinary sequence of poems chronicles the first months of his daughter, Veronika. In her face, as it devel-

ops, he thinks he can see resemblances to older relatives, passing across in succession, "cloud after cloud". It is like a non-satirical version of Thomas Hardy's poem *Heredit*, which begins: "I am the family face".

We were a generation without fathers," he says of his own wartime childhood. From the village's 300 houses, 250 men were killed. His schoolteacher father died at the front. In the postwar famine, another one in ten died.

"You grow up thinking life's like that." Children were cared for by the village as a whole, and almost entirely by its women. Somehow, for all his poetry's technical sophistication, Aygi has never forgotten that loving embrace, or lost the unmisted eye of a child.

• Gennady Aygi's series of readings ends tomorrow at St Andrews University. His Selected Poems, 1984-94 is published this week by Angel Books (£14.95).

## Not one oompah all night

IN ONE field, at least, we are at the heart of Europe. To absolutely nobody's surprise Britain secured the top four places at the 1997 European Brass Band Championships, which shook and pounded the Barbican from dawn till dusk on Saturday. In the end the flamboyant Yorkshire Building Society Band just pipped CWS (Glasgow) Band to first place, with Grimethorpe Colliery third.

Brass band contests are clearly one game invented by the British at which we can still win. Only three times in 20 years has the European crown been snatched from us. Nevertheless, in recent years the brass band movement has grown remarkably not only across Europe but in America and the Far East as well. Saturday night's gala concert (sponsored by Boosey & Hawkes) perhaps showed why.

Not only are the top bands' technique

**CONCERT**

**Brass Gala**  
Barbican

standards blisteringly good these days, they have also transformed themselves as entertainers. Banished forever, thank goodness, is the old beer-and-oompah stereotype. That was evident from the performance by the new champs. Under David King's direction Yorkshire Building Society opened the gala with *Cyr of the Celts*, an extraordinary arrangement of Ronan Hardiman's score for the *Lord of the Dance* show. Extrovert and exuberant, it incorporated a jolly Irish folk band called Hard on the Heels as well as some spirited solos for cornet, flugel and tenor horn.

Next up were the brass of the London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Eriks Eriksen in his own arrangement of a suite from *West Side Story*. Playing trumpets rather than cornets and French horns rather than tenor horns, the LSO team was clearly a different sort of brass ensemble. Nevertheless, many of Britain's finest orchestral players have come up through bands, and this pulsating performance was clearly designed to impress a hall full of connoisseurs.

And finally came the oldest and greatest of all brass ensembles: the Black Dyke Band (it dropped the "Mills" in its title, in deference to the march of time, just a few days ago). From this majestic, 142-year-old Yorkshire band came the concert's only original brass band score, a ferociously difficult showpiece by Philip Sparke called *The Year of the Dragon*. At times it veered strangely between Bernstein and Elgar in style, but was dazzlingly executed.

The Black Dyke players, directed by James Watson, also summoned up their full sonority for *Jupiter* from Holst's *Planets*, and then accompanied their outstanding euphonium soloist, Robert Childs, in his own arrangement of Hummel's *Fantaisie*. Brilliant stuff all round.

RICHARD MORRISON

**OPERA & BALLET****THEATRES**

ALISTAIR TEEBLEDY: *THE GOOD LIFE*

ALICE COOPER: *NATIONAL OPERA*

ALICE COOPER: *STANLEY*

APOLLO 24/7: *THE GOOD LIFE*

APOLLO 24/7: *STANLEY*

DOMINION: *THE GOOD LIFE*

DOMINION: *THE GOOD LIFE*

# Places at the nation's top table

Peter Riddell assesses the new Cabinet and those in the wings

Tony Blair's Government has a provisional tentative look — as if on probation until the first reshuffle in the summer or autumn of 1998. Like most Prime Ministers who have taken office after winning an election, Tony Blair has played safe at first. That is perhaps inevitable in the most inexperienced Government since Ramsay MacDonald's first ministry in 1924. He has given old stalwarts a chance to prove that they can perform at the top level and promising middle-rankers the opportunity to make the case for early promotion. The new Government is strong at the top, patchy in the lower ranks of the Cabinet, and promising at the level of minister of state. I would be surprised if three or four of the new Cabinet were still in place in 18 months' time.

Given the size of the Labour majority and Mr Blair's unquestioned personal authority, his caution in not having the best people in place from the start can be seen as a missed opportunity. He has avoided a party row by honouring Labour rules by putting as many as possible of the elected Shadow Cabinet into his first Cabinet and giving senior

Blair has been constrained in his choices: is it a lost chance?

Within these constraints Mr Blair has made some shrewd moves such as putting Donald Dewar in charge of Scottish devolution and George Robertson at Defence. Chris Smith could make a success of National Heritage after never looking convincing when shadowing Social Security or Health. The five women, along with the 96 other female Labour MPs, will make a big, still largely unappreciated, change to the political culture of Westminster.

But as one new Cabinet minister said to me a few weeks ago, "Who will be our Anthony Greenwood?" Greenwood, a darling of the Left in the early 1960s, was brought into Wilson's Cabinet in October 1964. He survived for several years, despite Richard Crossman's typically waspish but accurate view, "holding an important office extremely badly". A number of the new Cabinet could fit this description.

There are questions about the growth potential of Ron Davies, David Clark, Gavin Strang and Frank Dobson, all in their fifties. Harriet Harman has been rewarded for her loyalty and resilience, but Frank Field is a welcome appointment as her deputy. When I talked him during the campaign in his Birkenhead constituency, he was full of ideas about welfare reform and how to achieve change within the accepted tight spending constraints. Other ministers of state to watch are Geoffrey Robinson and Helen Liddle at the Treasury, and, among others due to be announced today, Tessa Jowell, Stephen Byers, Alan Milburn and Brian Wilson. Douglas Hender son is an unexpected choice for the key role as Minister for Europe, though his advantage may be that he has not expressed strong views on the subject.

Certainly the most intriguing non-Cabinet appointment is of Peter Mandelson as Minister without Portfolio based in the Cabinet Office, charged with "assisting in the strategic implementation of government policies and their effective presentation to the public". He will occupy a room next to Michael Heseltine's vast "ten-court" of an office, which is now being turned back into a committee room.

Mr Mandelson, who deserves most of the credit for the creation of "new" Labour, would have preferred a departmental job, but Mr Blair insisted on keeping him, since he regards his advice as indispensable and clearly wants an administration driven from Downing Street. But in face of departmental and ministerial sensitivities, it will be much harder for Mr Mandelson to act as Mr Blair's enforcer in government than in opposition. Mr Mandelson is anyway a likely early entrant to the Cabinet.

Many new ministers will this week echo the elation of Hugh Dalton, who wrote in his diary in summer 1929: "I am forty-two. Many happy returns as a Minister of the Crown! We've never said that before!" But the new entrants know — and have been told — that they are on trial.

## Gazumped

YESTERDAY, as Neil Hamilton denied that he and his terrifying wife face ruin and will have to sell their £300,000 house in Nether Alderley, the man who beat him, Martin Bell, was busy setting up home in Cheshire.



Bell, who claims to have less than £6,000 in savings, has chosen to rent a two-up, two-down terraced cottage in Great Budworth, near Northwich. The cottage is close to the George & Dragon and within sight of the old stocks, which might come in handy in Bell's fight against corruption.

"I managed to rent it within half-an-hour of leaving the constituency on Saturday afternoon," said the ex-war-correspondent. "During the campaign we held meetings in different homes, and at Great Budworth I discovered that the house next door was for rent."

Bell's first public duty at the weekend was to attend Knutsford's May Day celebrations, where he came face to face with Hamilton and his wife Christine. Few words were exchanged between the two men, although Hamilton threatened later that, like Arnold Schwarzenegger in the *Terminator* films, he would be back. "I have no plans to quit public life for ever — certainly not."



**Over in Israel, the hugely popular Hebrew newspaper Ma'ariv took an unorthodox view of the British election result with its front page headline: "New British Government: five women; blind minister; declared homosexual."**

### Gone fishing

SUGGESTIONS that John Major might soon be heading for the Lords should be shelved immediately. He has no desire to leave the House of Commons or, indeed, give up his Huntingdon constituency, where he will, inevitably, be spending more time.

Immediate plans include a holi-

day in Portugal with Norma, who became emotional on Friday as the scale of the Tory defeat struck home. In the longer term, the former PM has grand designs: he wants to buy more land and expand the grounds around his Great Staughton home so as to build another pond for his goldfish.

With talk of Gordon Brown moving into the flat above Number 10 and the possibility of an announcement of his engagement to Sarah Macaulay, a public relations consultant, concern is being expressed for Humphrey, the Downing Street cat. Humphrey, now a senior citizen, will anyway have to contend with David Blunkett's guide-dog, Lucy. If Sarah's bruiser cat Felix moves in as well, he'll simply have to hand over the flea-collar and move his basket elsewhere.

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POLITICS at Westminster School took an ugly turn recently with the formation of a neo-Nazi movement in the sixth form. The outfit was banned from taking part in the school's mock elections.

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Humphrey: claws fore

member of staff. "But things are now back on an even keel."

### Tiggy winkle

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Not to be outdone by Tony Blair, who was dubbed "Galaxy man" after becoming the first Prime Minister to use a Ford Galaxy to

# Finding the Tory road to recovery

With Peter Lilley as their likely new leader, the Conservatives must rebuild as they did in the 1940s

By Peter Lilley

A big question for the Tories is whether they can recover in one Parliament, or whether it will take two or more. The last time the Conservative Government was defeated by a landslide was in 1945, more than 50 years ago. The Labour Party then came to power with a programme for turning Britain into a socialist state, with nationalisation and high taxation. In 1945, the then much smaller middle class was very frightened by Labour. In 1997 a much larger middle class has happily returned Labour to power. The Tories in 1997 have neither Winston Churchill nor the fear of socialism that helped them to recover after 1945.

In the 1950 election, the Conservatives held Labour to a narrow majority. In 1951 they won, and they stayed in power for the next 13 years. I was at Oxford between 1946 and 1951; the Conservatives used student political associations to rebuild their support among the young. Edward Boyle and Margaret Thatcher were among my Tory contemporaries. Quintin Hogg was our local Oxford Member of Parliament. I remember meetings with Rab Butler in the Conservative research department; among the young candidates who came down to speak to us was Ted Heath and Reggie Maudling. I had a view from the gallery of the rebuilding of the party last time.

The first year after the defeat was not promising. The Conservatives were still in a state of shock. At the first party conference there were even proposals to change their party's name. Winston Churchill was almost an absentees leader, recovering from the strain of war, and writing his war memoirs. It was only in 1947, with the full crisis, that policy failures by the Labour Government gave the Conservative Opposition a real chance. However, the basis of the successful Opposition was laid during these first, apparently ineffective, years.

The decisive move was the repudiation of the Baldwin-Chamberlain Conservatism of the 1930s.

The Conservative revival was a team effort. Lord Woolton, a successful businessman, who had been Minister of Food during the war, became Chairman of the party and reorganised Central Office on business lines. He built an election-fighting machine which by 1950 was much more modern than the Labour party's. He managed to attract large numbers to join the Young Conservatives. In the constituency associations, new young agents were appointed, many of them ex-officers, the older people who had been running the associations were eased out. The candidates were forbidden to pay more than token sums to their associations, making it possible for younger and poorer candidates to stand. The Conservatives became much more meritocratic.

Rab Butler was put in charge of the Conservative research department, which was left largely independent of Central Office; he oversaw the party's internal policy debate which was organised in the constituencies through the Conservative Political Centre. Anthony Eden was the heir apparent and Shadow Foreign Secretary. He had the qualities of moderation and personal charm which have made Tony Blair so attractive a party leader. Eden was a popular campaigner, and increased the Conservative majority in the 1953 election.

when he campaigned as Prime Minister. Before Suez eclipsed his reputation, he was a major asset to his party. So was Harold Macmillan, who had been defeated in 1945, but soon came back into the House of Commons at a by-election.

Teamwork, reorganisation, new ideas and policy formation, encouraging youth, effective opposition in Parliament, the total modernisation of the party and the failures of the Labour Government were the factors which brought the Tories back inside

back, but not in time for the leadership contest. Chris Patten will still be governing Hong Kong until June 30, and has ruled out his candidacy. As he is the only major British politician with substantial experience of the new global economy of Asia, he must be brought back into politics if possible. It is a pity that Governor Patten is not available, as he might be the leader most likely to beat Tony Blair in 2002. Michael Heseltine has withdrawn from the contest on the grounds of health; otherwise he might have provided the elder statesman's leadership, building a team, which Churchill gave after 1945.

John Redwood has an excellent mind, and as he showed by standing against John Major, and even more excellent courage. However, he is not a natural communicator; in the scale of the smile and soundbite skills, he is at the opposite end to Tony Blair, and it is Tony Blair the Tories will have to beat. He will also be attacked for having opposed the Major regime, however right he was in saying "No change, no chance".

It may be easier to define the team than to identify the leader. The core team ought to include all the really able people, Patten, Portillo and Rifkind, who are at present outside Parliament. Clarke, John Redwood and Hague from the old front bench, Redwood from the internal opposition. These seven are more than a match, in individual terms, for Labour's top team. Peter Lilley was the best departmental minister of the last Parliament, he has the best grip on policy, and is a good colleague. Like Clement Attlee, he is a modest man, but that did not stop Attlee being a successful Prime Minister. Lilley's position on the thinking Right is close to the party's centre of gravity. By a strange chapter of accidents, including the absence of Portillo and Patten, the Euro-zeal of Clarke and the sad illness of Heseltine, Peter Lilley may be the only available leader who has both the principles — which are more important than some people think — the brains and the ability to hold the party together.

The remaining possible candidates are William Hague, Stephen Dorrell, Gillian Shepherd and Michael Howard, who for one reason or another seem unlikely to do the job, and three who represent a serious choice for the party: Kenneth Clarke, John Redwood and Peter Lilley. William Hague is still too young and would find it hard to build and lead a team far more experienced than himself. He also so far seems over-professional for so young a man, and the party needs original ideas. Stephen Dorrell had a poor election campaign; like Gillian Shepherd, he seems to have reached his political ceiling. Michael Howard turns the public off, a popular figure on the Right. He will come

six years after 1945. They must be the blueprint for any successful recovery after 1997, a recovery which may be more difficult against a Labour party which has abandoned socialism. The first need is to accept, as the Tories did in 1945, that serious failures of policy caused the election defeat. No one wants recriminations, the Tories did not lose over 150 seats because the late government was a great success.

The election disposed of four possible candidates for the leadership, the three Scots and Michael Portillo, who was the strongest possible figure on the Right. He will come

but following the Republican hubris that resulted in the shutdown of the government. Clinton recovered by seizing the Centre. In the spring of 1996, Blair arrived in Washington to see him. Bob Dole veered to the right, and when that tack failed ran a relentlessly negative campaign. Clinton, in the meantime, always couched his attacks with positive programme statements. His theme was "the bridge to the 21st century". Once again, Labour learnt.

The Tories, however, had learnt nothing. Major opened his campaign with a billboard depicting Blair with satanic eyes. But the negative campaign backfired, as voters thought it arrogant. Confronting public rejection, Satchie's only answer was to recommend a more vicious negative assault. Labour's polls and focus groups showed that this gave a big boost to Blair's positive approach.

As soon as Blair was indisputably going to be Prime Minister, at 4am on May 2, Clinton telephoned him. Now their relationship begins in earnest. They are of the same generation, both rigorous meritocrats married to professional women (indeed all four of them are lawyers). Blair's centre-left, community politics, like the Clintons' is connected to his religion. While Blair speaks of "one nation", Clinton speaks of "one America". Yet both are internationalists. Their existence is mutually reinforcing. Their politics can only be understood as an international phenomenon responsive to new realities.

The renewal of the transatlantic relationship is already apparent in Clinton's call for fresh negotiations on Ireland. Blair, for his part, may have more room to guide Britain into its traditional balancing role. Together they may promote international and social policies related to economic growth at the forthcoming G7 summit. The new Anglo-American model may soon appear different not only from the continental one, but from the laissez-faire of the Conservative values too. With the demise of John Major, the last remnant of the "special relationship" of old is gone. With Blair and Clinton together on the world stage, will there be an vital international Centre?

Sidney Blumenthal is a staff writer on *The New Yorker*.

## Along the Clinton-Blair axis

At last, the President has a little brother, writes Sidney Blumenthal



and Ronald Reagan concluded in a negative campaigning plot.

From the Democratic war-room sprang Millbank. All ambivalence about applying the techniques of modern campaigning was erased. The co-ordination of strategy, media and polis was no longer in dispute. Even the physical layout of the warroom — one big open space — was imported. The rabbit-warren of Walworth Road, the old Labour HQ, suddenly appeared an anachronism.

The Conservatives' behaviour during the 1992 campaign meant that Major's relationship with Clinton began on an awkward footing.

Clinton made a disciplined effort to act as though the underhanded Tory activities had not taken place. He even held a birthday celebration for Major. There was never anything abrasive in the personal exchanges between the two leaders; everything was proper. But most of the Clintonites despised Major and wished to see him fall. They were eager to help Labour whenever they could.

Blair became Labour leader in July 1994. In August, Clinton's national healthcare initiative failed. Three months later, having been discredited and fragmented under Clinton, the Democratic Party lost control of Congress for the first time in 42 years.

Clinton had had to operate under a system of divided government, negotiating with congressional "barons". His ability to discipline his party was necessarily limited. The lesson for Blair was to accelerate the reform of the party: to move rapidly to Clause IV and to institute the principle of one member, one vote.

The rise of the right-wing mystagogue Newt Gingrich as Speaker of the House also provided a lesson for the Tories. But it was a mis-cue. They believed that the Republican congressional victory was proof that they were right all along, that they need not change, that the currents of world politics were still flowing their way. John Major made pilgrimages to Gingrich, and Gingrich came to London to visit Michael Portillo.



Tony Blair, ferry his children about the 24-year-old Labour MP for Shropshire is "Capri man". After touring the Conservatives' Sir Marcus Fox, Christopher Leslie led a motorcade round his constituency in his B-reg Ford Capri, fury dice and all — just the sort of car at which Sir Marcus would have wrinkled his grand nose.

P.H.S

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## BLAIR THE CAUTIOUS

The Prime Minister puts his old team on new trial

Tony Blair had two choices in forming his first Government. He could have capitalised upon his hugely powerful position to form an administration in his own image, tearing up the convention that he appoints his first Cabinet from members of the shadow cabinet. Or he could go by the book, ensuring that all factions of the party were included.

He has chosen the latter. This will please those MPs who felt that they deserved to be rewarded for the discipline that they exhibited in the course of the election campaign. Had he packed the Cabinet with his allies, it might have looked audacious and impressive, but the resentment of the excluded would have come back to haunt him in more difficult times. By abiding by the rules now, he will find it easier in future to discipline MPs who fail to abide by the rules of the party's new code of conduct.

There is a danger of his losing valuable time by allowing mediocre colleagues to be secretaries of state. But he has warned his ministers that they are on probation. Any who do not live up to their job stand to lose their position next year — that may include some who share the Prime Minister's modernising views but are not effective. If, by the autumn of 1998, Mr Blair's Cabinet looks quite different, he will be able to say that his colleagues are there on merit.

Within the constraints that he has accepted, Mr Blair has made some good appointments. Donald Dewar is a sensible choice for Scottish Secretary, combining wisdom, common sense and an understanding of the Commons. He will be popular with the Scots but also, we hope, realistic about the dangers of steamrollering devolution legislation through Parliament. His predecessor, George Robertson need hardly see Defence as a demotion. His experience of foreign affairs will stand him in good stead there.

The choice of Frank Field to be Harriet Harman's deputy at Social Security, with a brief to think long-term and to innovate, may turn out to be the most important of all. Mr Blair seems to recognise as much: al-

though Mr Field will be outside the Cabinet, his appointment was announced on Saturday alongside those of his seniors. Mr Field has bold and imaginative ideas on welfare reform which, if put into practice, could make this administration truly radical in one of the most challenging policy areas to face an incoming government.

Chris Smith fits naturally into National Heritage, where he did a good job on the Labour front bench. But the oddest appointment is Frank Dobson at Health. Mr Dobson is not exactly left-wing, but he is certainly old Labour. Of all Labour's major policies, those on health are the weakest. Perhaps Mr Blair expects Mr Dobson to fail, and knows that he can replace him with the modernising Tessa Jowell at the next reshuffle.

Mr Blair has not yet weaned himself off his dependence upon Peter Mandelson, who becomes Minister without Portfolio, jostling with David Clark and Derek Foster in the Cabinet Office next door to Number 10. It will be a sign of the Prime Minister's growing confidence and maturity when he risks giving Mr Mandelson a proper job outside Downing Street.

The middle-ranking appointments are more overtly Blairite. Doug Henderson, the Minister for Europe, is a better choice than either his shadow predecessor, the Euro-enthusiast Joyce Quin, or the mooted alternative, Sir David Simon, chairman of BP. Mr Henderson is a tough negotiator, with no strong views on Europe, content to take the line determined by Messrs Cook and Blair.

It makes sense to have Geoffrey Robinson, a rare Labour MP with extensive business experience, in charge of the private-finance initiative. Helen Liddell, the minister of state at the Treasury, has made a smooth transition from John Smith to Mr Blair. Other modernisers, whose portfolios have not yet been allocated, include Ms Jowell, Stephen Byers, Henry McLeish and Alan Milburn. Cabinet ministers such as Mr Dobson and Mr Clark should beware — these bright young things form the Cabinet-in-waiting.

## END GAME IN AFRICA

Zaire's agony shows little sign of ending yet

On a ship off the African coast, Nelson Mandela, the South African president, yesterday failed to wring out of Zaire's dictator a firm promise that he will leave office soon. Mr Mobutu insisted that he will hand over only to an elected president, and agreed to new talks in ten days. By then, it will probably be too late. Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader, whose forces now control three-quarters of the country, has issued an ultimatum: unless the president surrenders office unconditionally, the rebel army, now only 50 miles from Kinshasa, would sweep into the capital and eliminate Mr Mobutu's remaining supporters.

The protracted and at times farcical attempt to get the two warring leaders aboard is in order to map out an orderly exit for the wily leader who has brought his once wealthy country to the verge of collapse. Mr Kabila could easily take Kinshasa. But the risk of a bloodbath is enormous, and Mr Mobutu, a duplicitous and stubborn man, is ready to take his country down with him unless he is guaranteed a dignified departure.

Meanwhile in the east, thousands of Rwandan Hutu refugees, weak, emaciated and many with appalling injuries, are streaming back to camps while aid workers carry out a wrenching selection of those to be taken out first on the airlift to safety and shelter. Their rescue from the jungle where they fled in terror from advancing Tutsi troops has been made possible only by the world outcry at their sudden disappearance. Mr Kabila has given the UN less than 60 days to find and save the Hutus. His troops have orders not to hinder the rescue operation. But there is no doubt that these victims of war have been intentionally driven.

## JOYS OF A BURSAR

Even in the land of high finance, money is not everything

Who wants to be a millionaire? Those who proclaim that they do not seem to protest too much. They would carry more conviction if there was ever a chance of their becoming millionaires. Lyric poets, students and artists starving in garrets can afford to despise wealth. They do not have the chance to do anything else with it. But the passion for the lottery suggests that most people would not turn down the chance to be seriously rich if the lucky finger of fortune pointed at them.

So the story of the rising City businessman who sacrifices wealth for the good life is a moral fable for our times as well as a stock topic for romance. John Martyn is the finance director of Dalgety, the makers of cattle feed and pet foods. He commutes daily from Oxford to an office in Mayfair, worked long hours, and earned a salary of £220,000 a year for his life of strain and train. Then last week he decided to give it all up for a gentler life of ideals and self-fulfilment.

*The Times* acts the part of messenger in his story. Michael Beloff, the President of Trinity College, Oxford, read our report of Mr Martyn's decision to "downshift". Trinity's long-serving estates bursar is about to retire. So Mr Beloff head-hunted the finance director in a reverse bid to astound the professionals. And as we report on page 42 of Business News today, Trinity's governing body has elected Mr Martyn to the post.

Now estates bursar is an honourable pro-

ven to the brink of death. Mr Kabila has much to answer for.

The Zairean civil war has become intricately mixed up with the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide and mass exodus. Many of the refugees are seen by local people as fugitives, led by criminals responsible for the worst atrocities in Rwanda. Those who have suffered the deaths of kinsmen in the massacres of 1994 have little compassion for Hutus fed and sustained in camps by international charity. Aid workers attempting to rescue the exhausted women and children are confronted with the brutal fact that they are seen as the expendable relatives of men whom most Tutsis in eastern Zaire would like to see dead.

This explains, but does not excuse, the delay in repatriating the refugees. The task has been further complicated by the civil war in Zaire. The sooner it is over, the sooner the refugees can be moved out of the country. That is one reason for the urgent intervention of the UN, the United States and President Mandela, who is showing himself a true statesman of Africa in undertaking this thankless task.

Mr Mobutu has now told the Americans and Mr Mandela that he will go. Now the important thing is to get him out of power — and preferably out of Zaire — as quickly as possible. When Mr Kabila takes over he will find it hard to impose his rule on the shattered country. While Mr Mobutu was able to impose his will by threats and bribes, no successor can count on these tactics. Mr Kabila will need to redouble the discipline in his victorious ranks: not least because his first task must be to ensure the safe return of the Hutus saved from the jaws of death.

## Mobile phone menace

From Mr Richard Moore

Sir, I hope that the new Government will curb the antisocial use of mobile telephones, two of which blighted a recent Royal Opera performance of *Otello*.

With impeccable timing, both Iago's *Credo* and Desdemona's *Willow Song* were interrupted by telephones which their careless owners had failed to silence.

Bring back the stocks!

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD MOORE,  
Well House,  
Upper Westwood,  
Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire.  
May 2.

## Church weddings

From the Reverend Francis J. M. Pole

Sir, I am sorry if the Church of England feels it necessary to "fight back" in the garden quadrangle of Trinity the bursar will have a prospect of the finest lawns and borders in Oxford. He can dine at high table beside the cleverest and most eccentric intellectuals of his generation, and every day meet the rising stars of the next generation.

The new bursar can walk to work instead of surfing the rush hour. While handling Trinity's investment portfolio, he will have more time for his charitable interests.

So Mr Martyn's new job is not quibotic folly. It is a poetic fable come to life in the prosaic world of rents and funds. And Mr Martyn is a consolation to non-millionaires, who in spite of the lottery are always going greatly to outnumber millionaires.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Calls for the nation to re-examine attitudes to Europe

From Lord Thomas of Swynnerton

Sir, Now that the Conservatives have chosen a new leader let us hope that they will select a statesman who will brush aside the last few years' out-of-date hankering for "a Europe of nation states"; who appreciates and understands the great benefits to us of our membership of the European Union and of our shared sovereignty with our neighbours; and who realises how important it is for Britain to seek to be, genuinely, "at the heart of Europe".

Yours faithfully,  
HUGH THOMAS,  
House of Lords.  
May 2.

From Sir Roy Denman

Sir, A deservedly triumphant Mr Blair may not yet be aware of the fact, but in a few months' time Britain will begin its retreat from Europe. The timetable looks like this.

EMU is still likely to start on January 1, 1999. The members of the first wave will be formally decided next May, but will effectively be known this autumn. With a minor delay possibly for Italy, all the present members of the Union will be locked into a single currency except bankrupt Greece and the UK, Sweden and Denmark (the Euroscopic northern periphery).

Mr Robin Cook has effectively ruled out joining before 2002, but even that date seems unlikely. For one of the criteria for entry is, in the words of the Maastricht treaty, "the observance of the normal fluctuation margins of the European Monetary System for at least two years, without devaluation against any other Member State".

Would the Government be prepared to put a highly volatile sterling into a European straitjacket in three years' time? If not, EMU for Britain seems improbable in the lifetime of this administration.

In the meantime, an increasingly integrated Europe of the eleven will be quick to resent any way in which we might seem to be getting, in a single market, a competitive advantage which their tighter discipline forbids. So if speculators force a devaluation of sterling, or if our partners find out

wages or taxes dangerously competitive social and fiscal dumping, they will surcharge our exports.

We would then effectively have been pushed out of the European Union. The cost would be foreign investment moving massively to the Continent, lost exports and jobs and vanishing influence.

The alternative — a firm decision to enter, as soon as practicable, the ERM and then in due course a single currency — could mean greater stability, lower interest rates, higher growth and a leading role in the further integration of Europe. It would encounter a firestorm of domestic opposition, and would need leadership and persuasion on a heroic scale but without it Britain will be out of Europe. The countdown begins this autumn.

Yours faithfully,  
ROY DENMAN,  
26 St Luke's Street, SW3.  
May 2.

From Mr John Szemerey

Sir, Now the election is over, bridges will have to be rebuilt with Europe. The Conservatives, having opted for a Eurosceptic stance during the election, will now have to rebuild the party and rekindle their links and friendships with continental conservative and like-minded political parties. Because of their negative campaign on Europe — insulting continental politicians and pretending that Europe was a threat to Britain — they will again be taken seriously and before anyone in Europe listens to them. But time is on their side.

Labour starts with a clean slate, although Tony Blair and Robin Cook blotted their copybook in the later stages of the election campaign by trying to be as jingoistic on Europe as the Conservatives. Still, this will be accepted as having been said in the heat of battle, and they will be given the benefit of the doubt. They will be listened to and judged by what they actually say and do in Brussels, not by the baggage they bring with them.

So now is Britain's opportunity once again to play a major role in Europe. If ministers come to meetings with an open mind and goodwill, trying to make Europe work for the benefit of

all its members, they can achieve a lot — a lot for Europe, and a lot for Britain. If they do not, there is every likelihood of the European Union breaking up into a multi-speed Europe, with Britain relegated to an undignified place in the lower league.

Yours faithfully,  
J. SZEMEREY,  
76 Marmixian,  
B-3090 Overijse, Belgium.  
May 2.

From J. R. Francis

Sir, I was astonished to see Lord Mackenzie-Stuart (letter, May 1) refer to "the sound tradition of judicial abstinenace from political involvement". The European Court of Justice, of which he is a former president, is, I would submit, a political rather than a judicial court, by mandate and practice ruling in the EU interest.

It is equally surprising to read that one so eminent apparently believes that the way to prevent recurrence of the war of more than 50 years ago is to bind together the unwilling (and for the most part unasked) people of Europe in precisely the same Teutonic behemoth against which so many fought and so many died so long ago.

Can he not see that relations between the peoples of Europe become more strained at each notch of the EU ratchet?

Yours faithfully,  
J. R. FRANCIS,  
Sunnymay, Church Lane,  
West Meon, Petersfield, Hampshire.  
May 1.

From Mr John Deas

Sir, Lord Mackenzie-Stuart has no time for critics of the European Union

who "never saw shattered London or the devastated ruins of the Ruhr", because he believes that the EU is our bulwark against such events.

Images of other ruins, from Atlanta to Sarajevo, remind us that political union without popular consent is no reliable bulwark against war.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN DEAS,  
5 Woolston Drive, Alsager,  
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire.  
May 1.

### Recalling a British 'icon' in India

From Lieutenant-General S. K. Pillai

Sir, On January 23, 1871, a party of Mizo tribesmen raided a tea garden at Alexanderpur in the Sumra Valley in North East India, killed a tea planter, Mr James Winchester, and kidnapped his six-year-old daughter, Mary.

This event created a sensation in England. *The Times* ran a series of dispatches and a millionaire, Mr Robert Arthington, formed a missionary society — the Arthington Aborigines Mission — to work in the Mizo area, then known as the Lushai Hills. Mary, who was handed over by her kidnappers to the Chittagong Column of the Lushai Expeditionary Force on January 21, 1872, was then sent to her grandfather in London.

Later she studied in Cambridge, married Harry Innes Howie, and occupied herself in good works and church activities. She was an ardent campaigner for the abolition of the Bawi (slavery) system in the Lushai Hills.

Mary's kidnapping prompted a change of British policy in the region from one of conciliation to the enforcement of British administration in the Lushai Hills. Indirectly it led to a high level of literacy and the establishment and spread of Christianity in the area.

Today, in the Mizoram area, Mary Winchester has become an icon. There are many monuments to her; expeditions are made from Mizoram to the tea garden at Alexanderpur, where hymns are sung at the site of the kidnapping.

Her letters sent from England to friends in the Lushai Hills are carefully measured. At a museum in Champai, near the Indo-Burmese border, I came across a letter sent by her in which her address is given as 13 Massington Road, London.

I would be particularly happy to learn from anybody who may have memorabilia of Mary's stay in the Lushai Hills and of her writings.

With regards, yours faithfully,  
S. K. PILLAI,  
Vichitra,  
Jawahar Nagar,  
Trivandrum 695 041, India.  
May 2.

### Pink peril

From Miss H. van Eijl

Sir, My advice to the National Lottery would be to reject Leander rowing club's £1.5 million application if its members have only voted to admit women in order to pursue this grant (reports, April 26, 28; see also letter, May 2).

Some members of Leander feel their status as a "high-performance" centre may be compromised, but other boat clubs have shown that high standards of achievement and membership for both men and women can be combined.

Moreover, the presence of the other sex makes rowing even more enjoyable, something the club may have forgotten.

Yours faithfully,  
H. VAN EIJL  
(Joint Captain,  
St Anne's College Boat Club),  
St Anne's College, Oxford.  
May 2.

### Water supplies

From Mrs Penelope Sherwood

Sir, Wing Commander Derek Martin (letter, April 26) suggests that people who bought shares in the water industry were paying for what they already owned. Not so.

The people who bought shares, as I did, were indirectly paying the people who did not buy shares for their share.

Yours faithfully,  
PENELOPE SHERWOOD,  
271 Swaleleys Road,  
Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middlesex.  
April 26.

### Dressed to the nines?

From Mrs David Jarvis

Sir, Back in the 1930s, when I was working in advertising, my wardrobe consisted mainly of wool or tweed suits in charcoal grey, olive green or navy. Shoulders were minimally padded and skirts reached to roughly two inches below the knee. The suits were called "costumes".

I wore court-style shoes with Cuban heels. My hair was "bobbed" to an inch below my earlobes, and make-up was mainly confined to face powder and a little discreet lipstick.

Were we setting the trend for the Nineties?

Yours faithfully,  
KATHLEEN JARVIS,  
28 Penn Grove Road



## OBITUARIES

## SIR JOHN JUNIOR

Sir John Junior, Editor of the *Sunday Express* 1954-84, died on May 3 aged 78. He was born on January 15, 1919.

**J**ohn Junior edited and ruled the *Sunday Express* for record 32 years, like many outstanding editors he aroused very strong — and often contradictory — feelings among his staff, his Fleet Street colleagues and the public. He was 'loathed' and loved, admired and ridiculed.

Many of his staff thought he was an able and stimulating editor; others, however, found him a harsh and repressive regime. He had his favourites and boasted that he had 'never once taken or to the staff anyone I didn't personally like'. He could be very generous and supportive to some individuals; yet several of his staff considered him 'the meanest man in Fleet Street'. Prejudiced and absolutely certain of his own righteousness, he was just the sort of editor many male (though very few female) journalists like working for.

He was not in any sense a conventional successful editor. When he retired in 1986 he had seen the circulation of the *Sunday Express* sink from a high of 4.5 million in the mid-Fifties to only barely over 2.2 million when he vacated its editorial chair it is now, of course, a full million lower than that. The principal cause of the decline was Junior's own decision to try to preserve his paper in a time warp.

The *Sunday Express* was nostalgic and appealed to readers who were conservative by disposition and approach, even if they voted Liberal or Labour. As editor he had no intention of changing what, at least in the early years, was a very successful formula devised by his predecessor John Gordon and his proprietor Lord Beaverbrook. In 1974 Gordon, who had written a weekly column called 'Current Events' for many years after ceasing to be editor, died. Junior took over from him and, until he finally left the paper in 1988, wrote a weekly column under the byline of JJ, which was, unapologetically, aimed at 'Middle Britain'.

The column reflected his Scotch Presbyterian, respectable working-class upbringing. In it he paraded his prejudices — against homosexuals, sociologists, bureaucrats, British Rail and the Left generally. The 'sage of Auchternuchy', as Private Eye called him, attracted a following for his blunt, plain man's approach; but as a replica Alf Garnett, he was also bitterly attacked — not least for what some (including the



him and made him a reporter on the *Daily Express* at 18 guineas a week. It was the beginning of what was to be a 41-year association with Express Newspapers. It was not only Christiansen he charmed and impressed. The proprietor also warmed to this young Scotsman, and his rise was rapid. For a time Junior wrote the *Sunday Express* political Cross-Bench column, even though the paper's policy was Tory and he was still a Liberal.

By 1951 he was an assistant editor and leader writer for the *Daily Express*. He moved to the *Evening Standard* as deputy

editor in 1953. In the summer of the following year Beaverbrook suddenly summoned Junior and told him that he would replace John Gordon's immediate successor, Harold Keeble, as Editor of the *Sunday Express* that autumn.

He had an unhappy first few months but gradually settled in and was able to impose his philosophy (which happened to coincide with Beaverbrook's) that, in the words of his memoirs 'it should be a newspaper which made people feel better, not worse, on a Sunday — that it should be a newspaper of optimism.' The formula

worked and, even when circulation began to slip, he found it difficult to alter it for fear of offending some section of the remaining readership. He felt that a large proportion of his readers wanted a paper that was fit to leave lying about the house and would be alienated by circulation-grabbing sex and sensation.

In December 1956 Junior himself made front-page headlines. He wrote a leader headlined 'Privilege' attacking politicians for giving the parties additional petrol in the rationing that followed the Suez disaster. Members of Parliament were outraged and Junior and the *Sunday Express* were referred to the Committee of Privileges, which decided he should be brought before the Bar of the House of Commons. He later recalled that, strangely enough, he received no advice or support from Beaverbrook but telephone calls from two Labour Members. Dick Crossman suggested he stood firm, spoke out for freedom of the press, and told the House to go to hell; while the old rebel Manny Shinwell advised placating the Commons by apologising.

When he was brought to the Bar, Junior began by expressing his 'sincere and unreserved apologies for any imputation or reflection which I may have caused upon the honour and integrity' of Members. But he did go on to say that he believed the allowances for politicians 'were a proper and indeed inescapable subject for comment in a free press'. The House decided that his honour had been preserved.

The Liberal attitude to Suez finally completed his growing disillusion with the Liberal Party and from then on he was a loud and loyal Tory of the Right. He was an early admirer of Margaret Thatcher and she of him. She liked his 'direct incisive style' and once said that 'the things that stuck in your guttelle were the things that stuck in mine'. It was no surprise when, on her recommendation, he was knighted in one of her earliest Honours Lists (until the moment of her fall he was regularly one of her lunch guests at Chequers on Boxing Day).

Junior had not always, however, basked in prime ministerial favour. Although he got on reasonably well with Harold Wilson — whom in the 1950s and early 1960s he had turned into a frequent *Sunday Express* contributor — that was not the case with Harold Macmillan. In the spring of 1963 Beaverbrook had actually accepted Junior's resignation. The proprietor for 'founding shareholder' as he liked to describe himself remained, even after the Vassall and Profumo affairs, a strong supporter of Macmillan's administration. Junior, however, felt he

could not support a Prime Minister who had been responsible for sending two journalists to prison — at the Vassall tribunal two reporters had refused to disclose their sources for the stories they had written and, as a result, were jailed for contempt. But luck came to Junior's aid. While he was still working out his six months' notice, Macmillan himself resigned and Junior and Beaverbrook made it up.

He remained Editor of the *Sunday Express* for another 23 years, by which time there were no more Aikens or any of Beaverbrook's kin left in the Express group. Beaverbrook's son Max Aiken had in 1977 sold out to Trafalgar House which, having renamed the company Fleet and placed the papers under the supervision of Victor Matthews, was, in turn to fall victim in a takeover bid from David Stevens and United Newspapers. Junior had got on well with Matthews but he did not feel similarly drawn to his successor and two years later, in 1980, he resigned his editorial chair. He continued to write the JJ column under the editorship of Robin Esser for a further three years but left in some dudgeon after Esser was replaced and a new editor took charge. (His real complaint seems to have been that he had not been consulted about the new appointment.) The revenge he exacted was a typically robust one. He took his column off to the rival *Mail on Sunday*, where — though now bylined John Junior rather than JJ — it was to appear regularly until yesterday.

Its distinctive flavour, no doubt, played its part in widening the circulation gap between the two *Sunday middle-market* papers — something that the *What the Papers Say* judges implicitly recognised earlier this year when they presented Junior with their Gerald Barry award. Again characteristically, this left him feeling rather grumpy — complaining to his neighbours at the annual lunch at the Savoy Hotel that the award should have been specifically associated with his column rather than being in the nature of a gold watch for a lifetime of merititious service.

Junior kept working virtually till the end of his life, his last column appearing in the *Mail on Sunday* just over a week ago. Apart from newspapers, his passions were sailing and golf — though he also would regularly announce his devotion to a variety of attractive and celebrated women.

He lived separately from his wife Pamela, whom he married in 1942. She and a son and a daughter — Penny Junior formerly of BBC TV's *The Travel Show* — survived him.

## HUGHIE GREEN

Hughie Green, television presenter and entertainer, died on May 3 aged 77. He was born on February 2, 1920.

**HUGHIE GREEN** was for three decades one of the best-known faces in British light entertainment. He had been quick to spot the television potential of game shows and talent contests, and the programmes in which he developed these formats — *Double Your Money*, *The Sky's The Limit*, *Opportunity Knocks* — drew viewers in their millions, week after week for years on end.

A natural showman and salesman, and a child star at the age of 13, Green instinctively understood the allure of wealth and fame, and he exploited the public appetite for vicarious glamour and greed with unabashed vulgarity and a skill few performers have matched. As a result, he was admired and detested in almost equal measure, his archly ingratiating manner, easy meat to satirical impressionists, his hand-wringing assurances of good faith as instantly recognisable as Dennis Healey's eyebrows or Harold Wilson's pipe — 'and I mean that most sincerely, folks'.

Hugh Hughes Green was born in London. His father was a prosperous Scots-Canadian fish merchant, his mother an Irish amateur soprano. There was something of a theatrical tradition in the family and his parents' friends included a number of variety artists, among them his god-father, the music hall comedian Harry Tate.

It was Tate who unwittingly

furnished the material for Green's first solo appearance, when the boy did an impression of his godfather singing 'Gilbert the Filbert' at London's Garrick Theatre.

Green was 11 at the time, but had already booked a theatre and put on a charity show with his friends the previous year, raising £4.50 for the Royal Northern Hospital ap-

peal. His theatrical life soon took precedence over his undistinguished academic career (at a prep school in St John's Wood and a boarding school in Bromley), and at the age of 12 he managed to secure an appearance on the radio programme *In Town Tonight*. On the strength of it, he was given his own regular 15-minute show, *Hughie and his Gang*.

The following year he was playing in big theatres up and down the country, and in 1935 he made his film debut in *Midshipman Easy*, directed by Carol Reed. His business acumen was already as strong, as his theatrical talent, and he soon running three touring companies employing almost 200 people. He was Britain's highest-paid child star by the time he was 15. He had a car before he was old enough to drive.

He developed an early enthusiasm for flying and during the Second World War, when he was a pilot for the Royal Canadian Air Force, ferrying planes across the Atlantic. After the war he returned to England where in 1948 he began a radio version of the talent show *Opportunity Knocks*. It ran for 33 weeks, attracting some 13 million listeners, but it was taken off the air in 1949 after a row between Green and the

BBC. It was the first of many such quarrels.

Green was capable of great kindness and consideration, especially towards what he called the 'little people' who appeared on and watched his programmes. But he could be difficult to work with — hot-tempered, belligerent on behalf of causes he believed in, sensitive to real and imagined slight and outspoken in his criticism of those with whom he disagreed. He was also extremely litigious, and after his programme was dropped he issued a writ alleging a malicious conspiracy to prevent his employment by the BBC.

He lost the case, and was declared bankrupt when costs were awarded against him. To repay his debts, he worked for four years in a variety of jobs. He ferried planes as he had in the Second World War, on one occasion losing an engine and almost his life on a flight from Iceland to Greenland; the thriller writer Duncan Kyle, who accompanied him on one of these flights, used the experience as the background to one of his novels, *Flight into Fear*. By the time he was solvent again, Green had done stunt flying in Hollywood, acted on American television and taken small roles in several MGM films.

Green returned to British broadcasting when commercial television went on the air. He was in the studio on the first night of transmission, explaining to viewers his new programme, *Double Your Money*, in which contestants had to answer simple questions in return for cash prizes of up to £1,000. The show became a huge success, consis-

tently among the most popular of the 1960s. When it was taken off the air in 1968, it was replaced by a variation on the same format, *The Sky's the Limit*, in which Green put questions to the contestants in the form of puns: 'Does a crab with two nippers get family allowances?'.

Green, a tall man with silvery hair and pale blue eyes, which he fixed unblinkingly on his audience, oozed geniality and concern as a television performer. His mannered sincerity infuriated what he dismissed as 'the intellectuals' and 'the arty critics', but it succeeded in putting at ease

the amateur performers and participants in his programmes. It made a particular hit of his talent show, *Opportunity Knocks*, which he presented for 16 years until it was dropped in 1973.

The show proved to be a first step towards success for such entertainers as Les Dawson,

son, Mary Hopkin, Little and Large, Lena Zavaroni and Pam Ayres. It also featured a succession of dancers, singers and comedians who have never been heard of since, as well as a man who played *Scotland the Brave* on the harmonica while hanging from a scaffold upside down. More than 10,000 hopefuls applied to appear in each series, and Green travelled 15,000 miles a year to audition them. Frequent vote-rigging scandals showed how influential the programme was thought to be. At its peak it was watched by 24 million people.

Green blamed the eventual demise of the programme on the fact that his populist approach was at odds with the cultural and intellectual pretensions of those for whom he was by then working, chief among them Jeremy Isaacs, director of programmes at Thames Television.

The showmen have all gone and the current affairs people have taken over," he protested. "My crime is that I always aimed my shows at an audience that lived beyond the borders of Eaton Square."

Those beliefs eventually became an obsession. Describing himself in 1982 as 'a bitter man — very bitter', he denounced what he saw as a left-wing conspiracy in British broadcasting. 'The media has its own Arthur Scargill, who, instead of mining for coal are mining the minds of the British people.'

In fact it was Green who had repeatedly brought politics into entertainment, with such stunts as a special edition of *Opportunity Knocks* broadcast from a Polaris nuclear submarine, and, on one bi-

zarre occasion in 1977, ending the programme with a gloomily sentimental appeal to Churchillian values and a patriotic song called *Stand Up and Be Counted*, performed by the Wimbledon Operatic Society chorus, the Bob Sharples Orchestra and massed ranks of air and sea cadets.

He was a staunch believer in private enterprise, rugged individualism and firm Government. 'The minute we start to crumble authority we are in trouble,' he said. He supported censorship — 'I sincerely believe there are certain of us who are better equipped to know what is good for us than others' — and backed Mary Whitehouse in being 'prepared to speak up for clean boots and short hair'. British television was 'the most sordid and at times most pornographic of any country in the world'. He thought American programmes far better.

Green's belief in entrepreneurship served him well once television had dispensed with his services. He had pursued a variety of business interests with great energy throughout his life, selling anything from planes to public address systems, and being actively involved in the development of commercial radio. In the early 1980s he made an unsuccessful bid for the London independent television franchise.

Between his television and business activities, he sought relaxation in sailing and in model railways, which he devoted a room in his London flat above Baker Street station.

Hughie Green was divorced from his wife in 1975 after a long separation, and she died in 1995. He is survived by a son and a daughter.

## Church news

**Archdeacon of Colchester**  
Canon Martin Wallace, Priest-in-Charge, Bradwell St Thomas w. St Lawrence, Industrial Chaplain to Bradwell Power Station, and a non-residential Canon of Chelmsford Cathedral, to be Archdeacon of Colchester, diocese of Chelmsford, succeeding the Ven Eric Stroud who retires at the end of April 1997.

**Appointments**  
The Rev Will Adam, Assistant Curate, Beaconsfield Team Ministry, to be Team Vicar designate, Witney Team Ministry (Oxford).  
The Rev Captain Paul Allison, Church Army, Assistant Curate, Shadforth, in plurality of Sherburn and Pimbridge, to be Priest-in-charge, St Peter's, Byers Green and Constance, Diocesan Children's Adviser (Duxford).  
The Rev Brian Birchmore, Vicar, Greenstead, just Colchester (Chelmsford); to be Parochial and Associate Priest, All Hallows-by-the-Tower (London).

The Rev Peter Ballantine, Training Officer, Rugby deaconry, and priest-in-charge, Chichester w. Willes, Clifton-upon-Dunsmore and Newton (Coveney); to be Director, Chilham Christian Training Programme (Oxford).  
The Rev Gregory Beheny, Chaplain of St Andrews, Tangier, Morocco; to be Chaplain, All Saints, Milan, Italy (Europe).  
The Rev Michael Blood, Vicar, Coteridge, Birmingham (Birmingham); to be also an Honorary Canon of Birmingham Cathedral.  
The Rev Stephen Coe, NSM, Abingdon Team Ministry, to be Associate Minister, St Andrew, Oxford (Oxford).  
The Rev Gillian Cooke, Anglican Chaplain, Keble, University (Lichfield); to be full-time Chaplain at Rampion Hospital (Southwell).  
The Rev Clinton Davis, Rector, Sandgate St Paul & Folkestone St George, the Chaplain of Stanhope Hill Prison, Isle of Sheppey.

Canterbury, Canon Ronald Dix, formerly Rector, Christ Church, Faversham, Kent; to be Priest-in-charge, St Martin, Perry Common (Birmingham).  
The Rev Feriel Etherington, Bishop's representative for child protection, to be Consultant, St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance; to be Selection Secretary and Local Non-Subsidary Ministry Coordinator, Advisory Board of Ministry, Church House, Westminster.  
The Rev Richard Etheridge, Vicar, St John, Langley, and Priest-in-charge, Christ Church, Oldbury, and St Michael, Lingley (Birmingham); to be also an Honorary Canon of Birmingham Cathedral.  
The Rev Tim Evans, Priest-in-charge, Shirehead and Assistant Chaplain to Lancaster University (Lancaster); to be Priest-in-charge, St John, Lancaster (Southwell).  
The Rev Kenneth Jones, Vicar, Holy Trinity, Millhouses (Sheffield); to retire October 31. The Rev Kenneth Jones, Vicar, Preston St Luke (Chichester); to retire.

## SIR F. TREVES ON THE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL

A LARGELY attended meeting was held in the great hall of the Church House yesterday afternoon by the Women's Union of the Church of England Temperance Society. Canon J. W. Horsley presided.

Sir Frederick Treves (1853-1923), the surgeon who carried out a successful operation for appendicitis on King Edward VII, is best known today for saving the Elephant Man from a life as a fairground freak.

## ON THIS DAY

May 5, 1905

Sir Frederick Treves

work producer it was exceedingly extravagant and might lead to a physical bankruptcy; and he was not speaking, he would remind them, of excessive drinking. It was a curious fact that troops could not march on alcohol. In the Ladysmith relief column, which he accompanied, the first men to drop out were simply the men who drank. The fact was as clear as if they had all borne labels on their backs.

As for the statement that alcohol was a great thing for the circulation, it increased the heartbeats and reddened the skin by using up the body's reserve power, but then the heart's action became emphatically weaker, a temporary effect being got at an enormous cost. The action of alcohol on the central nervous system was very definite, and was that of a functional poison, first stimulating and then depressing the nervous system. The higher nervous centres went first. The man who worked on even a moderate amount of alcohol was not at his best. Fine work could not be done under that condition.

The last notion he would refer to was that alcohol kept out the cold — that a 'little nip' was good when going out into cold air, and so forth. In the words of a great authority, alcohol really lowered the temperature of the body and much reduced the power of the body to resist cold.

# THE TIMES TODAY

MONDAY MAY 5 1997

## NEWS

### Blair rewards the faithful

■ Tony Blair last night handed key roles in his Government to many of the most enthusiastic supporters of his crusade to change the Labour Party.

The Prime Minister followed up his Cabinet appointments on Saturday by giving Peter Mandelson, one of the originators of new Labour the task of ensuring that his policies are implemented throughout Whitehall..... Pages 1, 4, 5

### Lining up for leadership battle

■ Rightwing contenders for the Tory leadership claimed support last night after the departure from the race of Michael Heseltine. Peter Lilley, the former Social Security Secretary, became the second contender after Kenneth Clarke to throw his hat into the ring, and John Redwood confirmed that he was likely to stand..... Pages 1, 2

### Rebels close in

Zaire's rebel army was closing in on Kinshasa after peace talks between President Mobutu and Laurent Kabila failed. Most of the Mobutu family were preparing to flee and the 32-year-old regime was collapsing..... Pages 1, 13

### Security at home

To neighbours it may have appeared that Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, was having a new garden shed delivered to his elegant country home..... Page 3

### Starr listing

The abandoned house looks more likely to be listed than listed, but Ringo Starr's former home could be the first birthplace of a living person to be protected as a listed building..... Page 6

### Mountbatten find

A unique collection of home movies of the Mountbatten family has been discovered after nearly 60 years of neglect..... Page 6

### Oxford share-out

Rich Oxford colleges are coming under pressure to share more of their wealth with their neighbours to ensure university standards are maintained..... Page 8

### Fatal TWA failure

What the FBI described as "catastrophic mechanical failure" was the most likely cause of the TWA Flight 800 disaster in which all 230 passengers and crew on board were killed..... Page 10

### Gypsy beatified

A gypsy shot by firing squad during the Spanish Civil War was beatified..... Page 13

### Playwright 'paid to learn about women'

■ Britain's leading left-wing playwright David Hare was once given \$2,000 by his agent to broaden his experience of life and buy the services of a woman, a new biography discloses. Hare, whose more recent successes include *The Absence of War*, and *Amy's View*, was then in his twenties and had recently signed up with Peggy Ramsay, the theatrical agent..... Page 9



MaryAnne Stevens, a Royal Academy curator, checking some of the works removed after fire broke out on Saturday. Report, page 8

## BUSINESS

**Joining Blair:** Sir David Simon spent the weekend consulting with the British Petroleum board on whether he could be seconded to advise the Government on European industrial issues..... Page 48

**Paternity leave:** Only a tiny minority of British firms offer worthwhile maternity leave, a Demos study found, but they will soon have to change their ways..... Page 48

**Costly art:** Sotheby's and Christie's are expecting to sell \$550 million of art in their latest New York sales as prices soar and collectors decide to sell while the US stock market is still buoyant..... Page 48

**Economy:** Business expects to suffer higher taxes under Labour but is philosophical about it, according to a poll of top firms..... Page 48

**Pilot's 'suicide'**

The US Air Force is looking into reports that one of its pilots deliberately crashed his plane out of fear that a former lover might reveal their alleged homosexual affair..... Page 13

### Gypsy beatified

A gypsy shot by firing squad before the Spanish Civil War was beatified..... Page 13

### Playwright 'paid to learn about women'

■ Britain's leading left-wing playwright David Hare was once given \$2,000 by his agent to broaden his experience of life and buy the services of a woman, a new biography discloses. Hare, whose more recent successes include *The Absence of War*, and *Amy's View*, was then in his twenties and had recently signed up with Peggy Ramsay, the theatrical agent..... Page 9

## ARTS

**Melvyn Bragg:** "Between them, the Metropolitan Museum and Central Park reinforce the best dreams of America"..... Page 18

**Images of obsession:** The Design Museum celebrates a century of erotic obsession in art, from Aubrey Beardsley to Allen Jones..... Page 18

**Taking leave:** A new production of Wagner's *Tannhäuser* marks Paul Daniel's farewell to Opera North in Leeds..... Page 18

**Soul of Russia:** Paul Barker meets the great Russian poet Gennady Aiy, currently on a reading tour of Britain..... Page 19

**Brass Gala:** The 1997 European Brass Band Championships shook the Barbican from dawn till dusk on Saturday..... Page 19

**Universal pictures:** Einstein's theories have been challenged by two physicists..... Page 14

**MIND AND MATTER**

**Final frontier:** The great days of scientific discovery are nearing an end, according to a controversial book next week. Nigel Hawkes reports..... Page 14

**Football:** If Manchester United win the premiership this week it will confirm the domination of Manchester area teams in English football..... Page 25

**Snooker:** Stephen Hendry, the holder, trailed 5-3 to Ken Doherty after the first session of the final of the Embassy world championship..... Page 26

**Golf:** Bernhard Langer scored 64 to capture the Italian Open with a one-stroke lead over José María Olazábal..... Page 26

**Boxing:** Naseem Hamed, who was confirmed as Britain's WBO and IBF featherweight champion with his first-round win over Billy Hardy, is ready to make his mark in America..... Page 27

**Equestrianism:** Hugo Simon, Austria, became the first rider to win the Volvo World Cup three times, riding his gelding, ET..... Page 27

**Rugby league:** Bradford Bulls have a week to mend broken spirits before they meet St Helens again in the Super League..... Page 33

**Racing:** Sleepytime gave Henry Cecil his fifth 1,000 Guineas win..... Page 34

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There is a danger of Tony Blair's losing valuable time by allowing mediocre colleagues to be secretaries of state. But he has warned his ministers that they are on probation..... Page 21

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Tony Blair's Government has a provisional, tentative look. Like most Prime Ministers who have taken office after winning an election, Tony Blair has played safe at first..... Page 20

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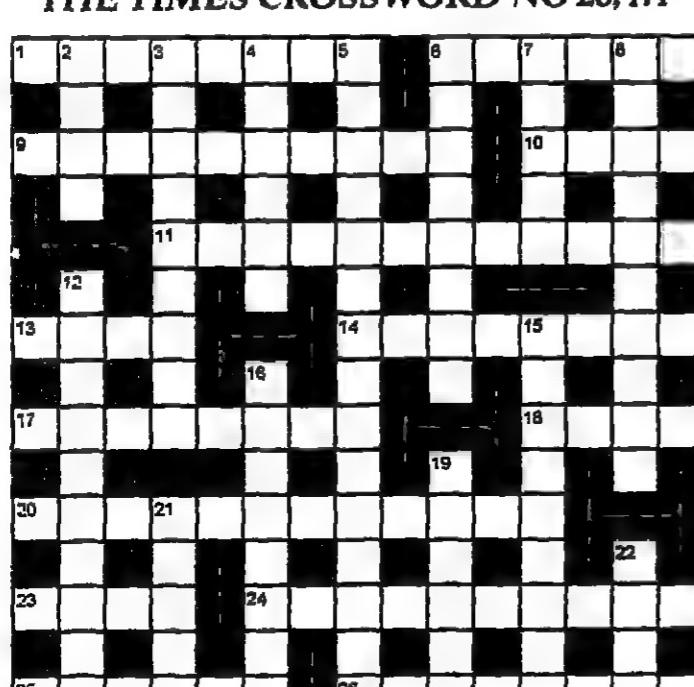
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**HIGHEST & LOWEST**

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Southern Essex 21.7°C; lowest day temp: 21.0°C; Shropshire and Cheshire 20.5°C; 2nd highest sunrise: Colwyn Bay 06.51; 2nd highest sunset: 19.51

**NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING**

Recycled paper made up to 50% of the paper used for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

**FORECAST**

**General:** England and Wales will have bright intervals and showers. More persistent rain will affect northernmost counties of England, eventually moving south across the rest of northern England and Wales. It will turn cold and windy in the north, but elsewhere temperatures should be above average.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cold and windy with some snow on high ground. Drier, clearer conditions will spread south across most parts, but with blustery wintry showers. It will feel cold in the strong wind.

**London, SE England, E Anglia, Central & S England, E Midlands, Channel Islands:** sunny intervals and scattered showers, perhaps heavy at times with the chance of thunder. Wind southerly, moderate to fresh.

**NE England, W Midlands, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, Central N England:** sunny intervals and showers, perhaps hazy at times with the chance of thunder. Wind southerly, moderate to fresh.

**E England, W, Midland, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, Central N England:** sunny intervals and showers, heavy at times with snow on high ground. Becoming brighter from the north but with wintry showers. Wind strong, northerly. Max 18°C (64°F).

**NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** sunny intervals and wintry showers, heavy at times with some drifting likely. Wind strong, northerly. Max 18°C (64°F).

**Outlook:** cold and showery after clearance of rain from south on Tuesday.

**AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY**

24 hrs to 5pm: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, ds=dust storm; du=desert, lg=log; g=gale; h=hail

**Sea: Rain:** See front page for details. You may have to set to post receive mode</



# TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MAY 5 1997

FOUR POINTS FOR UNITED WILL COMPLETE GREATER MANCHESTER CHAMPIONSHIP SWEEP



If Cantona lifts the Premiership trophy again, he will complete a sweep of English League championships by Greater Manchester teams begun by Bolton Wanderers, centre, and continued by Bury, top right, and Wigan Athletic

## Manchester: first city of football

THERE used to be a pub in the Withington district of Manchester that the local ravers nicknamed M-VITA, an acronym for Manchester Vibes In The Area. The pub is closed now, a victim of the changing music scene but, judging by this morning's league tables, the vibes are alive and well in the city's football clubs.

Manchester United are leading the way, of course, cantering to the brink of their fourth championship in five years with their 3-2 draw away to Leicester City on Saturday. If they gain at least four points from their last three FA Carling Premiership games, all at Old Trafford, they will force their superiority down the throats of the pretenders from the other great footballing metropolises of London, Liverpool and Birmingham for another season.

The dominance of Manchester in domestic football this year, though, extends far beyond the hegemony of United. If Alex Ferguson's team is the shining star at its centre, it has

**Oliver Holt** considers how a cluster of neighbouring clubs have dominated all the English League championships this season

suddenly become surrounded by a group of champagne supernovas, an oasis of success in a country of fans who can only watch and envy.

On Saturday, a select group of the region's once downtrodden clubs, peans who used to put the "er" into Greater Manchester, completed an unprecedented championship sweep of the other top four divisions. Even in an illustrious football history, the area has never had it this good.

In 1973, Liverpool, Bury, Bolton and Southport established a monopoly of divisional titles for Lancashire clubs. This year, though the power base has become even more concentrated. As United go from strength to strength, it is almost as if their success has trickled down to local clubs, once resigned to a life as support acts and usually accustomed

only to haemorrhaging a steady stream of fans to the big-city teams.

Just like the city centre, rejuvenated by the redevelopment of its theatres, its opera house and its cinemas, emboldened by the worldwide success of bands such as Oasis,

the region's hegemony on Saturday. Their win over Kettering Town clinched the GM Vauxhall Conference title and ensured their promotion to the Nationwide League third division next season for the first time in their history.

The third division title went to Wigan Athletic, the team from the traditional rugby league stronghold, who pipped Fulham to the virtue of goals scored. They beat Mansfield Town at Springfield Park on Saturday to secure the prize.

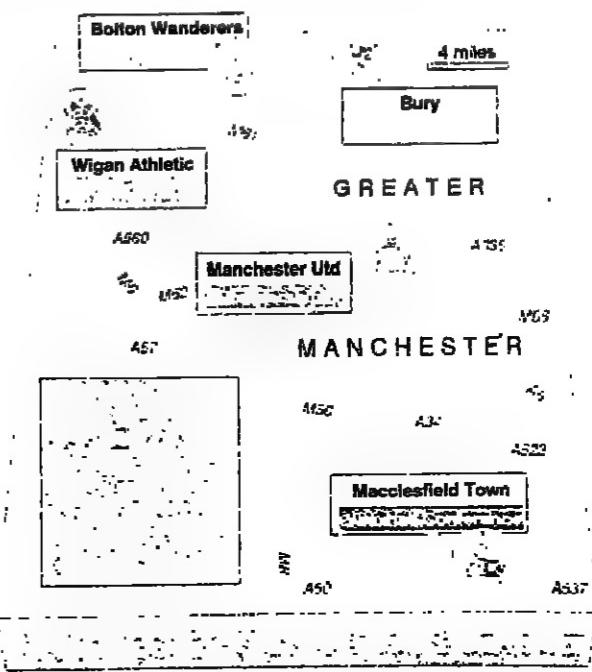
In the second division, just beyond the southern limits of the city, Macclesfield Town, managed by the former United midfield player, Sammy McIlroy, struck the first blow for

Johnstone giving them victory over Millwall.

The runners-up were Stockport County, another team relishing life in the spotlight after years of being forced to play their home games on Friday nights because so many of their fans watched either United or Manchester City on Saturdays. Coca-Cola Cup semi-finalists this season, where they lost narrowly to Middlesbrough, they overhauled Brentford and Luton Town to secure the second automatic promotion spot. The decrepit little stand at the Cheadle End of Edgeley Park has a towering new replacement. They play their home games on Saturdays now, too.

The quartet was completed by the most impressive team of all, Bolton Wanderers, who scored their hundredth goal and their 98th point at Preston Park yesterday to round off a season that established them as the outstanding team in the first division.

Manchester is not a two-horse town any more. No longer is it a footballing city united.



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## Strength of recovery depends on final count

**BUCK**  
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It has become tradition that the snooker world championship coincides with the country's first glimpse of summer. As each day goes by and the weather becomes hotter and sunnier, it becomes ever more difficult to return to David Vine and the twilight world of the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield. But still, a pale few million seem to manage.

It is not, however, traditional for the championship to coincide with a general election. On Thursday night I only became aware that Stephen Hendry and James Wattana were still battling away when my finger slipped as I checked projected majorities on BBC and ITV. I paused briefly, made my own prediction as to the likely outcome and moved on. Far more enjoyable watching Cabinet ministers getting pooped.

**SNOOKER: SCOT'S ATTEMPT TO RETAIN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SUFFERS EARLY SETBACK IN FINAL**

## Doherty seizes on Hendry's break in concentration

By PHIL YATES

**KEN DOHERTY** took advantage of a wildly inconsistent performance from Stephen Hendry to establish a surprising 5-3 first-session lead in the final of the Embassy world championship at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, yesterday.

Hendry carried his tally of century breaks for the event to seven and for the season to 45, with a trio of excellent contributions but, in the remaining frames of the afternoon, his potting from distance, shot selection and tactical play all left a lot to be desired.

Patience was not a virtue displayed by Hendry, undoubtedly drained of the mental stamina so necessary when the exchanges become fragmentary. The Scot's concentration only seemed to be at its height when he occupied prime scoring position.

Hendry is clearly jaded after a draining session in which he has captured five individual titles, including the United Kingdom championship, and captained Scotland to victory at the World Cup.

Sustained focus has been a constant problem throughout the past fortnight and it was again Hendry's Achilles' heel as Doherty, much the fresher, enjoyed a two-frame cushion entering the second session, despite being outscored 436-371 in the first.

After he had conceded with three reds left on the table in the first frame, Hendry stylishly established a 2-1 lead

On Friday morning, such were the distractions, the semi-final coverage disappeared altogether, which after two weeks must have been annoying for anyone who had stayed with the tournament since the outset. Vine, whose 17-day marathon makes David Dimbleby look part-time, made light of it: "Something else was going on, apparently." He then invited us to look away if we didn't want to see what had been happening. I peeked (is there anyone who doesn't?) and discovered that Ken Doherty had won seven of the eight frames in the morning and was halfway to the final. A nasty miss, but I suppose the circumstances were exceptional.

Whether the fact that much of Doherty's semi-final triumph was not seen live will



MATTHEW BOND  
TV ACTION REPLAY

have an impact on the viewing figures for the crucial later stages of the final today remains to be seen. Conventional wisdom has it that snooker is once again in the ascendant as a television sport, but part of that wisdom is based on the remarkable viewing figures achieved this year by the Benson and Hedges Masters. That, however, was a one-off with the old master, Steve Davis, beating the hugely popular Ronnie O'Sullivan by a narrow margin. The result was a peak audience of 9.6

million for the final quarter-hour, some five million up on the year before.

On Saturday afternoon I finally caught up with the main reason why O'Sullivan continued to have such an impact on viewing figures for this tournament — that blistering 147 break. A typical afternoon audience of around two million was lucky enough to see it live, with more than three million tuning in for the repeat in the evening. Twelve days later and at least third time around, it still made

wonderful television, helped by its speed and the enjoyment of spotting when Dennis Taylor and John Virgo, the commentators, first realised what was on. "This is amazing," Taylor noted with the score at 57. "One more red and the frame is safe," Virgo said at 73, "but Ronnie's got other things on his mind and so has the audience."

Five days after that break, O'Sullivan was still bringing in the viewers (some four million watched his battle with Darren Morgan on *Grandstand*, despite the attraction of a Formula One qualifying session on ITV) but then he lost. The result is that today is the day we will discover just how durable snooker's recovery on television is.

The final last year, between Hendry and Peter Ebdon, drew an average audience of 6.1 million, with a peak for the final quarter-hour of nearly ten million. Hendry against Doherty will be doing astonishingly well to get anything close to that.

My one real complaint concerns the most frequently used shot of the table, taken from a black end. The framing of this static picture is designed to allow room for the score to be stripped across our screens. The unfortunate double side-effect is that we cannot see the head of any player attempting a shot at the black end, or, if they are a black-end safety game (so Ray Edmonds tells me) the score gets in the way. Surely API, which provides the coverage for the BBC, can do better than that.

## Chinese in sight of second clean sweep

WITH four titles in the bag, and three within sight, China moved closer to becoming the first country to defend successfully all seven titles in the world championships in Manchester yesterday (Richard Eaton writes). It attracted the biggest crowd for a table tennis tournament in Britain since the Fifties.

Jan-Ove Waldner, of Sweden, the former world and Olympic champion, remains the principal threat to China's dominance, serving cunningly to beat another former world champion, Jean-Philippe Gatien, of France, 21-7, 22-20, 21-14 in the quarter-finals. The two singles world champions, Kong Linghui and Deng Yaping, lost the final of the mixed doubles competition to their compatriots, Liu Guoliang and Li Na, in four games.

## Monarchs fail again

**AMERICAN FOOTBALL:** An extraordinary second-half collapse by London Monarchs led to a 37-32 defeat by Barcelona Dragons. Leading 30-7 at half-time, the Monarchs offence failed to gain a first down until the final two minutes, and they gained only 36 total yards in the second half, all inside the final two minutes. The Dragons, with a 3-1 record, are now favourites to host the World Bowl, as the team with the best record at the halfway stage has that honour. Scottish Claymores improved to 2-2 with a 9-3 victory over Frankfurt Galaxy, while Amsterdam Admirals won their second consecutive home match, beating Rhein Fire 23-20 on Saturday.

## Majoli's first on clay

**TENNIS:** Iva Majoli, of Croatia, right, captured her first clay-court title and her second championship of the year by overwhelming her doubles partner, Ruxandra Dragomir, 6-3, 6-2 in the final of the Rexona Cup in Hamburg yesterday. Majoli also won the Hanover tournament in February and extended her unbeaten streak in Germany to eight matches.



## England finish third

**LACROSSE:** A sudden-death play-off decided the outcome for the second time in the 15-year history of the women's World Cup when United States defeated Australia, 3-2, in the final in Tokyo yesterday. Amy Rowe scored the winning goal. England, runners-up in the past two World Cups, won with the bronze medal when they beat Wales in the play-off.

## Briscoe takes command

**ROWING:** Richard Briscoe, of City of Oxford, raced to victory in the Elite Sculls at Wallingford Regatta on Saturday, taking the scalps of Olympic performers Guy Pooley and Tom Westerling of Norway. Oster/Wallingford dominated the women's eights; their winning senior two and senior three crews, both being led by Helen Casey, the Oxford Boat Race stroke.

## Manning stays ahead

**CYCLING:** Jon Clay, the former British track champion, had a double in the four-day tour of Lancashire yesterday, but failed to take the overall race lead. Despite winning the 3.3-mile time-trial climb from Skerton to Harrisdene Fell and the 29-mile town centre race at Accrington, Paul Manning starts the 82-mile final stage today 28 seconds ahead of Kevin Dawson and 35 seconds ahead of Simon Bray.

## Smith leads from front

**TRIATHLON:** Spencer Smith, twice the world champion, right, is renowned for leading from the front and, once again, the Briton successfully employed the tactic at the St. Croix International event in the US Virgin Islands. Richard Allen, the British national champion, opened his season with a top-ten finish by taking ninth place.



## Rowlands victory

**SQUASH:** Rowlands Manchester, having beaten ICL Linford, the Super League champions, in the semi-finals of the Super League Cup on Saturday, surprisingly defeated Dunraven Maesteg 2-1 yesterday in the final at the Lingfield Club in Surrey. The Welsh side had defeated the favourites, Ellis Lingfield, who included world numbers 2 and 3, Rodney Eyles and Peter Nicol, on Saturday.

## Scots win home series

**BOWLS:** Not even the inclusion of two players from the host club could save England from defeat in the British wheelchair bowls home international series at Nottingham yesterday. Scotland were the winners. Richard Farneth, the Nottingham club president, and Val Allen won, but the England team, who fielded Bill Curran, the Paraplegic Games gold medal-winner, still finished third.



## POLO

## Cowdray Park win first of the season

**COWDRAY** Park won the pivot, converted a first tournament of the season, on their Ambersham grounds, yesterday, as they carried off a 60-yarder. However, goals from Donoso and Glasson put Windward ahead again at treading-in time.

In the third chukka, Oliver Taylor, the Windward back-striked a series of Cowdray Park attacks and, at the end of it, they were still — at 4-4.

However, the last period went almost entirely Cowdray's way. Beresford found the Windward flags within the first ten seconds and Huidobro smacked home a penalty shot. Then Huidobro slipped through the Windward defence to score.

Huidobro opened the Cowdray account and, after a Windward cross, Lord Beresford converted a

**GOLF: GERMAN RYDER CUP PLAYER'S WIN IN ITALIAN OPEN ENDS TWO-YEAR PERIOD WITHOUT TOURNAMENT SUCCESS**

## Langer overhauls Olazabal with record round

From MEL WEBB  
IN GERMANY

**NOBODY** gives José María Olazábal a three-shot start on the last day and beats him, right? Wrong. Bernhard Langer produced one of the finest rounds of this PGA European Tour year to knock Olazábal down remorselessly in the Italian Open yesterday, was twice shaken off after catching him up and could not possibly have left the all-important move into the lead a second later. The shot that mattered was his 273rd and final stroke of the tournament and it won for him a massive victory.

His round of 64 was a course record for the Gardigolf layout that lies peacefully between the shores of Lake Garda and the foothills of the Alps. There was nothing very peaceful, though, about the way Langer

cast aside his natural caution and produced as aggressive a round of golf as will ever have played.

Langer threw nine birds at the course and was not flattered by a score that gave him a one-shot victory over Olazábal on 15 under par. Darren Clarke was third, 11 under, with Philip Walton and Steve Webster a further stroke adrift.

Over the years, Langer has been a hapless and periodic martyr to the putting yips, that awful St Vitus twitch that has reduced strong men almost to tears and driven others out of the game but, with his belated conversion to the broomhandle putter, he might have chased the ogre out of his life for the last time.

He single-putted the last five greens here and birdied four of these holes in a rousing and ruthless climax to which Olazábal could find no answer. Not that the Spaniard

### FINAL SCORES

Great Britain and Ireland cruised to a

win.

Featherweight champion ready to build reputation in America after rapid demolition job

## Buoyant Hamed prepares for Atlantic crossing

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

**T**HE American public, which has little regard for British boxers, may have to revise its view later this year. The man to influence it is Naseem Hamed.

The World Boxing Organisation and International Boxing Federation champion is expected to secure the third element of the world featherweight championship in September in the United States. In so doing, he could make a big impression.

After seeing Hamed defeat Billy Hardy, of Sunderland, in 93 seconds, Jay Larkin, the head of the sports division of Showtime, the television company, said he wants to put Hamed on at Madison Square Garden, New York. Hamed could feature on the bill that will be headed by either Evander Holyfield or Mike Tyson, whoever wins on June 28 in Las Vegas.

Hamed's opponent could be Wilfredo Vasquez, the World Boxing Association champion, or Luisito Espinoza, of the Philippines, who holds the World Boxing Council (WBC) version, or a "surprise package", which could mean someone such as Azumah Nelson.

Larkin said: "There are three men in boxing: Tyson, Oscar de la Hoya and Naseem. Naz is not as well known in the United States as he should be. This is why I

want to get him to the States as soon as possible.

"I want to get him there on the heavyweight championship bill with Tyson or Holyfield and I'm looking at September. He is a much more rounded fighter these days and he continues to grow with every fight, and I have no doubts in my mind that he will unify the featherweight division."

"But he has to take a more challenging fight the next time out. It could be Vasquez or Espinoza for the Garden fight. Or it could be a surprise proposition we've been talking about."

Larkin did not name Nelson as the surprise but if Hamed could meet someone of that stature on bill which would also include Terry Norris and Felix Trinidad it could make Hamed a star overnight in the United States.

Joe Koizumi, the manager of Espinoza, hopes his man will be the opponent. Koizumi came all the way from Tokyo to the Nymex Centre, Manchester, to see Hamed and put in a full report to his fighter. But the Japanese was wondering what to tell Espinoza because the bout was over so quickly.

"I don't know what to say to my fighter," Koizumi said. "It was too quick, but Naseem was awesome." Had Koizumi

asked Hardy, he would have got a more graphic description of what it feels like to be hit by Hamed, who is developing a punch to match anybody's pound for pound.

"The first shot he hit me with I felt my nose crack," Hardy said. "I'm all numb around my teeth. I feel in my heart of hearts he is going to be the four-time champion because he's got that knockout punch. He's got something special in his hands."

Hardy was only underlining what Hamed had always maintained, that the punch is a gift from God.

Koizumi added: "I know people are wondering if my fighter can take a punch like that. I know Luisito has a suspect chin but he will not have to look after his chin because he has a punch that will knock Naseem out."

Mickey Duff was one to predict a first-round victory for Hamed and picked up £5,000 on a bet. But the London promoter had to give it away to Frank Warren because he had wagered £50,000 that his man, Henry Wharton, would beat Robin Reid the WBC supermiddleweight champion.

At the end of 12 grueling rounds, Reid came out the clear winner by at least four rounds. In so doing, Reid established himself as a worthy champion.

He outboxed Wharton from start to finish, allowing the York man to come back into the contest only in the last two rounds. He followed his game-plan of boxing on the retreat and staying away from Wharton's big left hook.

And what was particularly impressive was that, having outboxed Wharton most of the contest, Reid took the fight to him and outpunched the heavier man as well. From the eighth to the tenth round, Wharton had his head tilted back with jabs and right hands.

To his credit, Wharton gathered himself and came back strongly in the last two rounds but it was too late to make up the points deficit. Reid must now be favourite to beat for Calzaghe, the unbeaten Welsh supermiddleweight of whom good things are being predicted.



Reid jabs his way through Wharton's defences during the successful defence of his title. Photograph: John Gichigi/Allsport

## Hardy counters with fighting talk

Andrew Longmore on the contrasting responses of two boxers who suffered sporting humiliation

**B**illy Hardy looked as if he had just seen a ghost. His face was pale, his voice deathly quiet and his nose was broken. "I've never been punched that hard in my life," he said. That means 14 years, 46 fights and 351 rounds — 352 if you count the one minute and 33 seconds that it took Naseem Hamed to adjust the vertical rod-and-white striped shorts.

Hardy brought the traditional boxing values of the mining community to Manchester, but left with a shuddering notion of exactly how limited such virtues are in the face of natural talent, as Hamed claims loudly and readily, his own gifts are god-given — and a middleweight's clout in a featherweight body is powerful evidence — then Hardy's are decidedly man-made, though equally admirable.

His career was never glorious. He was beaten twice inside his first 11 bouts, which effectively consigned him to boxing's undercard, but he persevered and, though there were many at ringside who openly questioned his right to be in the same parish as Hamed, let alone the same ring as the sheer doggedness of his curriculum vitae earned him the right to be humiliated. And humiliated he most certainly was, in the naked, lonely way

only boxing can achieve, to the extent that even Hamed toned down his normally obnoxious antics.

Two moments summarised the challenger's terrible ordeal. The first came in that 93rd second. Put down for the second time, by a brutal left to the head, Hardy slumped, staggered to his feet then, realising that the referee had rightly stopped the contest, went down on one knee and buried his head in his hands. It was not the pain that hurt in that split second, it was the embarrassment. What do you tell your children? What do you tell your grandchildren? Or your supporters, who have spent hard-earned cash on the blink of an eye? How do you explain all the pre-bout bluster? How do you reconcile your own inadequacy in the face of shattering reality?

Hardy must have known, as everyone else knew, that his third world title challenge, enforced on Hamed by the World Boxing Organisation, was no more than a shot in the dark. Somehow, though, he had talked his way into a crazy belief that, just for once, it might be his night. His grey-haired trainer, Gordon Ibkinson, knew better. At the first bell, Ibkinson hovered on the apron of the ring, reluctant as a mother parting from her child. The reunion was not long postponed.

All those thoughts must have shot through what was left of Hardy's rationale, and after it was all over and Hardy had stayed in the ring to listen to Hamed's dismissive reference to the bout as "a little scuffle" (true enough), Hardy was summoned into the television spotlight. Initially, he refused, shaking his head as the producer beckoned for an explanation, but, realising that he owed his people something, he walked to his fate.

By late on Saturday night, Hardy had unearthed some answers. The only loser to face the media, he had already banished the notion of retirement, at the age of 32, and sewn together a patchwork pride. Or was it amnesia?

"I'm not going out like that," he said. "I'm not going out a loser. I'm a winner." In time, he will understand that there is no disgrace in not being

good enough. It is a fact of sport, more painfully learnt in the ring than anywhere else. Hamed will learn about it one day, too. Hardy is a winner and a loser, one of many.

Quite what warped logic pitted Ronald "Winkie" Wright, one of the classiest champions in the world, against Steve "The Viking" Foster, landlord of the Priory Arms in Pendleton, for the WBO light-middleweight title, only boxing economics can explain.

Wright is too classy to sell tickets in his native United States, where only punchers are promoted on pay-per-view; Foster sells lots of tickets to the people of Salford, his home town. Naseem v Hardy was too obvious a mismatch to be a seller, so a little creativity was required and Foster was an all too willing accomplice. "The Viking" was torn to shreds and wisely took the hint.

"I just wasn't good enough for the world stage," he said, "but I've still got me facilities and so that's it, I'm packing in." In boxing, ignoring your limits can prove fatal. Later, Hardy was asked seriously if he would consider a rematch with Hamed. "You must be joking," his manager replied. But Hardy's face turned a whiter shade of pale at the thought.

## SAILING

### Webber exploits home advantage

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

**T**HE BT Global Challenge fleet enjoyed another cracking start in glorious sailing conditions off Cape Town yesterday as the fifth and longest leg of the ten-month race, which takes the crews to Boston, got under way.

With a southeasterly breeze blowing at up to 25 knots, the 14 steel cutters put on a spectacular display for the thousands watching from spectator boats and on shore.

As has been the pattern at previous starts, the early leaders came from the lower reaches of the fleet, with Boris Webber, the only South African skipper in the race, who is lying thirteenth overall, leading the charge on *Courtaulds International*. He was closely followed by the pre-race favourite, Richard Tudor, on *Nuclear Electric*, who is ninth overall, and Paul Bennett's *Ocean Rover*, which is eighth.

A mile or so later, at the first turning mark, the wind shadow under Table Mountain killed the breeze completely as the yachts hunched and fought for water like a fleet of sailing dinghies before they set off up the coast towards Robben Island, making about ten knots under spinnaker.

Adrian Donovan, another back-marker on *Health Insured II*, was leading with Simon Walker, on *Toshiba Wave Warrior*, climbing through the field to join the first three.

Clay Blyth, the race director, was usually enthusiastic but he said this was the best and most aggressive start to date.

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## FOOTBALL

# Rivals left to pursue final goals

**Oliver Holt** on an entertaining but inconclusive day for Manchester United and Leicester City

The voice of one of their favourite alumni, the player whom the sentimentalists call the last of the Bushy Babes, hit the airwaves just as the Manchester United coach pulled on to the Leicester ring road on Saturday, homeward bound for the championship denouement.

The tones still unmistakable through his nervousness and tension, Sammy McIlroy was talking from Kettering, where his Macclesfield Town side was about to try to secure promotion to the Nationwide League. He was speaking about how, desperately, he wanted the prize, about the agony of waiting.

He spoke of his ambitions and of how, although he was happy serving his apprenticeship where he was, he would one day like to manage at a higher level. He would, he said, like to emulate the achievements of his fellow-Ulsterman, Martin O'Neill.

Two hours later, McIlroy's agonies were over, but O'Neill, the Leicester City manager, and his Manchester United counterpart, Alex Ferguson, were still suspended above their personal pyramids, still languishing in the purgatory that is the pursuit of a goal most people assume they have already reached. Their sparkling rollercoaster of a 2-2 draw at Filbert Street, in front of a short-sleeved crowd basking in the first of the summer sun, might have been high on entertainment, but on a day when others were put out of their misery, it was low on conclusions.

Leicester, who have slipped from mid-table security into the danger zone at the foot of the FA Carling Premiership since they won the Coca-Cola Cup last month, began as though they were determined to put

an end to concerns about their survival. They were 2-0 up against the champions within 19 minutes, courtesy of a well-controlled half-volley from Walsh at the back post and a mazy run and save finish from Marshall. At that stage, it seemed that their last two matches, at home to Sheffield Wednesday and away to Blackburn Rovers, would be purely academic.

United, a defensive shambles in the first half, destroyed that scenario with a fightback inspired by the tenacity of Scholes and the finishing of Solskjær. The Norwegian striker hauled them back into the match with sharply-taken goals either side

of half-time.

One more strike would have taken United to the brink of their fourth title in five years. Instead, even a victory against Middlesbrough at Old Trafford today will not be enough to put the title out of the reach of Liverpool. Their coronation will be postponed until tomorrow at the earliest, when a win for United followed by anything other than a Liverpool win away to Wimbledon would confirm them as champions.

Ferguson was the happier, more relaxed of the two managers on Saturday. His goal is nearer, more assured. At one point, he even spoke as if United had already won the title. "It was the two victories against Arsenal and the two against Liverpool that have really won it for us," he said.

"The essential differences in last year's campaign and this year's was that last year we got off to a terrible start with some young players, but once we got over new year we really did find a magnificent consistency."

This year, our concentration has not been as good throughout the

season, but we have won the games that have mattered and proved we have got to better levels than last year. They have proved they can play at a better level now when they want to, when the chips are down. That is the main difference in the season."

Just when he was reaching the point of no return, he caught himself and stopped. "But we have got to win it yet," he said, "and it will be difficult on Monday."

O'Neill, reflecting the manic

touchline antics — the pointing, the leaping, the yelling and the cajoling — that have prompted Graeme Souness to warn him that he is heading for heart trouble if he does not calm down, was far more circumspect.

His team had overwhelmed the league leaders in the first half with the running of Izat on the right, the brazenness of Marshall in attack and the command of Elliott at the back, but he knows that all this season's hard work is still at risk.

"Had we won today," O'Neill

said, "we would have known that Sunderland could not go above us and we already knew that Forest cannot go above us. Then you would have been looking at a collection of results having to go disastrously wrong for us in order to send us down. But we did not win and we are not safe yet."

"It is not me being ultra-cautious,

but I cannot say we are safe.

Suddenly, if I do, maybe it gets through to people who think they have done it. When we are safe, I

will reflect on our achievements. We have won the Coca-Cola Cup and I have not had one minute to actually enjoy it."

Back in Kettering, Sammy McIlroy was savoring the celebrations while he could.

LEICESTER CITY (4-4-2): K Keller — S Grayson, M Elliott, S Walsh, P Karslake — M Izat (sub: S Chapman), M Johnson, M Lennon, G Parker (sub: M Whalen), T E Holden — S Clark (sub: S Guppy). MANCHESTER UNITED (4-3-1-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, D May, S Keane, P Parker — E Charlton — A Cole, O G Solskjær (sub: R Johnson). Referee: A Wilkes

## Collymore on direct route towards the Anfield exit

Liverpool ..... 2  
Tottenham Hotspur ..... 1

By KAREN PRICE

LIVERPOOL have yet to wave the title on its way to Old Trafford, although they concede that the trophy is packed and ready to go, but there can have been few people on Saturday who did not suspect that Anfield was indeed saying goodbye to Stan Collymore.

Having scored one of the goals that helped Liverpool to extend the battle for the FA Carling Premiership into the last six days of the season, by beating Tottenham Hotspur, Collymore's emotions were clearly running high. Yet the striker's exit, as his side prepares to conclude its programme with two games on the road, appeared to be not so much *au revoir* as over and out.

While his colleagues contented themselves with a briskish tap of the ground and the occasional handshake, Collymore lingered at the back of the group, as unwilling for the moment to end. His shirt was thrown to the Kop, to be followed by his boots and a prolonged, wistful departure. All that was missing, it seemed, was a signpost reading "Villa Park this way".

Certainly, Ian Rush had made less fuss when taking his leave of Anfield 12 months ago than did the £8.5 million man bought to succeed a legend, and Collymore steadfastly refused to add to the speculation over his future. How tragic, though, that only now should Liverpool be adapting their game to a system so much more likely to bring the best out of him.



Collymore: apparent farewell

as Manchester United seem likely to prove yet again, deploying wing backs is not a pre-requisite for winning championships and, having reverted to a traditional 4-4-2 formation for their gallant Cup Winners' Cup failure against Paris Saint-Germain, Liverpool stuck with it against Tottenham. There are no regrets so far.

There are disadvantages: McManaman, once again, finds himself stumped to the left touchline, and none of his three midfield colleagues seemed prepared to risk complementing the attack for long. Yet the pros outweigh the cons; with Ruddock restored, the Liverpool defence seemed far more organised. Most telling of all, though, the switch from a frequently ponderous passing game to a more direct approach is playing to Collymore's considerable strengths. He needs the ball to be played forward

quickly, to capitalise on his pace and power, and now he gets it. "The system needs to be refined," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said. "There were probably too many long balls today. But the players have worked very hard at it, and we will probably go that way next season. We just need to be a bit more organised."

Trailing to Anderson's deft early header from Campbell's cross, Liverpool reaped the rewards of their more positive approach by half-time. Ruddock's punt forward and Berger's clever lay-off allowed Collymore to equalise and, when Dozzell's careless pass was cut out by Bjornbye, the ball was transferred instantly into Berger's path for the winner. Direct, uncomplicated, decisive — Collymore would have had two more but for fine saves from Baardsen, a half-time replacement for Walker, in the Tottenham goal.

If the runners-up position, never-

theless, remains the limit of Evans's realistic expectations — "I would swap places with Alex Ferguson, that's for sure," he said — and with it a chance to qualify for a competition that will, ludicrously, retain the title of Champions' League.

"If they [Uefa] have opened a side

door and they want to let us in, we should accept the invitation with open arms," Evans said, clearly amused by the absurdity. Next season cannot come quickly enough, with or without Collymore.

LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): D James — B T Keane, M Wright, N Ruddock, S J Bjornbye — J McNaughton, J Redknapp, M Thomas, S McManaman — P Berger.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-1-1): I Walker (sub: E Baardsen, 46min) — D Austin, J Stiles, R Vega, C Calderwood, D Anderson (sub: P McNaughton, 75), D Dozzell, S Ruff, 46) — J Donell, A Sinton, S Campbell, E Sheringham, R Keane.

Referee: M Reed.

## Absence makes heart grow fonder for England return

STEVE MCMANAMAN



faces up to being dropped at international level

and get a result, which will require a similar gritty display. Then, and there is no escaping from this, we will have to go to Italy and win.

For my part, I can only respond positively to the fact that I was dropped. Even at the moment that I was told I was not in the team, I did not have time to feel sorry for myself or resent my omission. I might have been a substitute and could have got on after one minute, so I had to be prepared mentally.

No one is more aware than me that I do not have a right to a place in the Liverpool side, let alone the England team. And I'm aware, too, of the criticism of me in recent international matches. It has been said that I don't deserve to be in the England team at the moment.

Clearly, we have to keep pace with Italy and that means winning our remaining games, by whatever means. We have to go to Poland

and get a result, which will require a similar gritty display. Then, and there is no escaping from this, we will have to go to Italy and win.

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Personally, I don't think I have played as badly as some have suggested. I was pleased with my form against Sunderland and

Everton — when I played out of position — and my spirits have not been affected. But the games that everyone has seen, because they were on television, were away to Paris Saint-Germain and at home to Manchester United.

I can't escape the fact that Liverpool played badly in both those matches and it doesn't matter whether a player is in the best form of his life if the team is not playing well; it is difficult to emerge with credit. I was as guilty as anyone.

As ever, there has been a concentration on my goal-scoring ability. Maybe I should score more goals, but my record is fair this season, even though I have still to score for England. I am singled out because I get forward from midfield and make runs into the box but, at international level, the defenders are of far better quality. Alan Shearer will testify to the difficulty as he went for a long spell without an international goal and look at him now.

I have lost my England place and that is a blow, but my confidence isn't affected. I still believe I am playing quite well, even though I have been used by Liverpool recently in various roles that I am unaccustomed to. What I must do is continue to prove my form and continue to work hard.

The World Cup is the ultimate objective and it doesn't matter about individuals. What matters is winning matches to get us to the finals. It is every player's dream of making it there and England can still do that. I am hoping that I will be a part of it if we get to France, but it will take some hard work from the team and myself if both those objectives are to be achieved.

est enough to concede that the quality of the match "was not too good". The importance of the occasion, the rivalry for second place and elevation to the now spurious Champions' League next season, generated desperation rather than inspiration.

Shearer, who if he is not scoring goals does little, did little. Bergkamp and Wright were sharp in movement, but offline in finishing. The frustration on the field was shared on the terraces. Newcastle had the better of the first half. Arsenal the second. Symptomatic of Bergkamp's afternoon was his chance to equalise from Vieira's glanced pass near the finish, which he hit straight at Srnicek.

The outcome assured Newcastle of a Uefa Cup place, for which Arsenal were already certain. The Champions' League position remains in dispute with Liverpool.

The winning goal, on the stroke of half-time, was ordinary, though arising from excellent origins. Asprilla, who produced moments of fantasy before he was replaced by Gillespie, sent Adams the wrong way at close quarters and Clark, seizing on a rebound, hit a stinging low shot. Seaman, the only world-class player in the England team, though unsigned, saved brilliantly low down at full stretch. From Asprilla's ensuing corner kick, Peacock lobbed speculatively and Elliott, reacting quicker than the defence, headed home.

ARSENAL (5-3-2): D Seaman — I. Diaz, M Keown, A Adams (sub: R Parot), S Smith, J. White, J. Bendtner, L Lee (sub: L Clark), S. Smith, D Peacock, R Elliott — L Fann, R. Smith, A. Smith (sub: F. Gillespie, 62). Referee: M Bodenham

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-3-3): P. Adams — J. Barton, D. Richardson, S. Wilson, J. Bardsley, S. Lee (sub: L. Clark), S. Smith, D. Peacock, R. Elliott — L. Fann, R. Smith, A. Smith (sub: F. Gillespie, 62). Referee: M Bodenham

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Michael Calvin sees a compelling last act to Brighton's extraordinary tale of survival

## Hereford cast adrift in the crying game

Graham Turner sat, empty-eyed, in his office, set in a stairwell under the main stand at Edgar Street. His unsuccessful game-plan, which outlined five key points for each Hereford United player to remember, lay on his desk alongside a scion's report and an empty snitch-tumbler. The good, luck cards, which proclaimed "don't worry, be happy", were merely flowers at a pauper's funeral.

Turner winced as a last muffled chorus of "we're staying up", bellowed to the *Three Lions* tune by Brighton fans celebrating survival after a 1-1 draw, filtered through the thin walls. Steve Gritt, his opposite number, was still on the pitch, giving countless interviews. "I don't want to imagine how Graham is feeling," he admitted. "It is just too terrible for words."

The stigma of taking a club out of the Football League, in the unique circumstances of what amounted to a relegation play-off between the third division's two worst teams, was etched on Turner's pale face.

He spoke of duty, of dignity, and his determination to resign as Hereford's director of football. The images of despair were too fresh, too fundamental to too many lives, to ignore. "I've enjoyed a lifetime in football; but at a time like this I wonder why I do what I do," he said. "It's my worst day, without a shadow of a doubt."

Memories of Hillsborough, given sharp focus by the campaign launched on behalf of the families of its victims, remind us that it is farious to talk of footballing failure in terms of tragedy, but it was impossible to subdue an awful sense of intrusion into private grief. Many, led by the apprentices taking soiled kit to the laundry room, were in floods of tears. Some, like Peter Hill, the Hereford chairman for 20 of its 25 years as a League club, spoke to strangers with the compelling candour of the recently bereaved.

In his case, the analogy was too literal. He stressed: "This is the worst day of my life," and then stopped suddenly. "Well, that's not true," he continued, softly. "My daughter was killed towards the end of last year. My wife died recently." As bizarre as it may seem, in the embarrassed silence which followed I could

**Football can kick you when you are down'**

Brown Ale, he began to realise what he had done. He assuaged the romantics by revealing that he had scored with a lucky pair of boots purchased by Lisa, his wife of less than a year, but he knew the domestic upheavals he had created in another set of families.

This is the reality of football at our level," he said, gesturing towards a small bubble of Hereford players being consoled by friends. "On the pitch I'd have done anything to beat them. But off it we're all the same. We've all got mortgages to pay, children to look after. There is no money around. We're all scrapping and saving."

We can't all be like Alan Shearer. There are thousands of us who came into the game with the same dreams, who want to be like him, but things are hard. Football can be the best thing in the world, but it can also kick you when you are down."

Edgar Street is the habitat of manly victims. The broken and boarded windows of the Spotted Cat Club, at the eastern corner of the ground,



Reinelt turns away in celebration after scoring the equaliser that saved Brighton and condemned Hereford to the Vauxhall Conference



Comfort and joy: Trevor Mathewson, of Hereford, is consoled by supporters as Steve Gritt, the Brighton manager, receives a congratulatory hug



symbolise decay. "This is not a couth," Hill insisted, but he appreciates the calamitous consequences if the local council refuse to ease the redevelopment process on Wednesday. Obviously, the city treasurer is against such a concession, and supports the institution of a winding-up order on the club.

Similarly, Brighton's inter-regime warfare simmers. David Bellotti, the chief executive, who ignored requests not to inflame the situation by attending the match on Saturday, is still reviled by the travelling fans. Avoidance of the ultimate irony, avoidance of the casual callousness of football. Dismissed by Charlton, he

scored in the twentieth minute by a Youth Trainees Scheme graduate, Kerry Mayo, will not maintain the truce forever.

Dick Knight, the new chairman, who hopes relief will apply a tourniquet on old, deep wounds, wisely sought to focus attention on the achievements of Gritt, who joined the club in December, when it was marooned by 12 points at the bottom. No one felt inclined to argue when he insisted: "Steve deserves to be made manager of the year. This is all down to him."

Gritt is scarred by the casual callousness of football.

Dismissed by Charlton, he

### Restructuring plan to be considered

HEREFORD United could avoid relegation if the Football League accepts a recommendation, to be debated on Thursday, to expand and regionalise the third division by adding 16 teams from the Vauxhall Conference.

sustained himself for 18 months by scoring for Gillingham, and signing on. "I'd always promised myself I'd never take the date, but there I was, every fortnight. The

worst point was being turned

down by Gravesend last summer. Then I really began to wonder whether I'd ever get another job. A few people doubted me, but I always felt I could get us out of trouble. Without belief in football, you're nothing."

Those words were given poignant relevance by the sight of the Hereford captain, David Norton, more than an hour after fans had lifted his limp, distraught body from the turf. He had still to bite his lower lip to prevent himself from crying, but he summoned enough composure to say: "What cracks me up is what this means to others. My

wife was out there, kicking every ball with them. Those fans were with us. They say that out of darkness cometh light, but I don't know..."

His eyes welled up again and, as he walked away, he was consumed in a bear-hug by the club chaplain. "You guys did brilliantly," the Rev Andrew Mottram murmured, but his words were empty. As empty as Graham Turner's eyes.

HEREFORD UNITED (4-3-3) 1 A de Boni — T Mathewson, D Norton, J Brough, B Sanderson, C Harrop, B McGarry, R Norton, J Hurn, S Pinnock (sub: R Renell, S Hurn, N Mayes, M Morris, S Morris); (bus: G Hobson, BS) — I Bent, C Market. Referee: N Barry.

PLAY-OFF MATCHES: Crystal Palace v Wolverhampton, Bradford United v Ipswich. First-leg matches to be played May 11.

PLAY-OFF MATCHES: Crewe v Luton, Bristol City v Bradford. First-leg matches to be played May 11.

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\* Palace match may catch to May 10 to avoid clash with Wimbledon's home Premiership match.

Bradford's escape spiced by Pepper's two goals

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

BRADFORD City, who 12 months ago were toasting a Wembley victory and promotion to the Nationwide League first division via the play-offs, had equal cause for celebration yesterday as they ensured their survival on the last afternoon of the league season.

Thousands of supporters ran on to the pitch at Valley Parade after Bradford's 3-0 victory over Queens Park Rangers had condemned Grimsby Town to the second division, despite their even more emphatic home win, against Southend United.

Nigel Pepper, whose goals from midfield made his purchase for £100,000 from York City two months ago inspirational, scored twice, but refused to take all the credit for Bradford's recovery. "It was a team effort," he said. "We said on Thursday [before the victory over Charlton Athletic] that we left here to win both our games and commitment and spirit has got us through."

Chris Kamara, the Bradford manager, is already looking to next season. "Financially we are in a great position and there is no reason why we can't do well," he said. "The last two weeks have been very difficult, but the players have shown a great attitude and it is all about what those players do on the pitch."

Geoffrey Richmond, the chairman, was equally delighted. "Chris got us promotion in the most unlikely circumstances last season," he said. "He's a very popular manager, and has had 99 per cent support from the fans. He has my fervent support too, but that shouldn't sound like the dreaded vote of confidence."

At Blundell Park, where Grimsby's 4-0 defeat of Southend — their biggest of the season — proved inconsequential, there were a number of

### PLAY-OFFS

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\* Palace match may catch to May 10 to avoid clash with Wimbledon's home Premiership match.

less good-natured pitch invasions, with one player, Tommy Widdrington, ripping a banner out of the hands of two fans. Kenny Swain, the caretaker manager, later said that he would be applying for the position on a full-time basis, despite relegation.

With the four play-off positions already filled, the programme yesterday merely allowed the contestants to boost morale. None of the quarter managed a victory, however.

Wolverhampton Wanderers, whose poor home form cost them any chance of automatic promotion, were beaten 1-0 at Molineux by Portsmouth — their eighth league defeat in front of their own supporters. They will play Crystal Palace in the play-off semi-finals. Palace completing their programme with a 1-1 draw against Port Vale at Selhurst Park during which Dougie Freedman, their Scotland Under-21 striker, was sent off for violent conduct.

The other semi-final will be between Ipswich Town, who conceded their first goal in 53 minutes during a 1-1 home draw with Birmingham City, and Sheffield United, who figured in a drab goalless draw against Charlton at The Valley.

The final relegation issue in the Vauxhall Conference was settled on Saturday when Bath City joined Bromsgrove Rovers and Altrincham in the drop. Bath beat Northwich Victoria 3-2, but discovered that Halifax Town, the only team that they could catch, had defeated Stevenage Borough 4-2.

Cheltenham Town made sure of their elevation to the Conference when a goalless draw away to Burton Albion was sufficient for them to secure the runners-up position in the Dr Martens League premier division, behind Gresley Rovers.

ULTIMATE CRICKET COVERAGE.  
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BY DAVID MADDOCK

Tranmere Rovers ..... 2  
Bolton Wanderers ..... 2

By DAVID MADDOCK

BOLTON Wanderers were looking forward to celebrating a unique double of 100 points and 100 goals in a season. Instead, a goal two minutes into stoppage time by Lee Jones, the Tranmere Rovers forward, transformed the afternoon into one of cruel disappointment and petty recrimination.

Bolton have deserved their little piece of history this season by majestically sweeping all before them in the Nationwide League first division, but they lost concentration right at the death. Jones ran through a gaping hole in the visiting defence to smash an unstoppable volley into the roof of the net, snatching a draw, and leave Bolton stranded on 98 points. It was painful to watch, especially given the time inexplicably added on by John Kirkby, the referee. Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, insisted, however, that the disappointment should not detract from his side's achievement.

"The fact that we didn't get a hundred points cannot spoil what we have done this season. We are champions and we did it with four games to go

Aldridge playing on

TRANMERE ROVERS (4-4-2) 1 E Nixon — T Thomas, J McGrail, A Thor, A Rogers (sub: J Jones), K Lewis, L O'Brien, A Murray (sub: J McNamee, J Williams, D Wilson). BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2) — G Bargeron (sub: G Ward, 89) — G Shand, J Phillips — P Franklin, J Pollock, J Thompson, S Squires — N Balle, M Johnson (sub: J McGeary, J Kirby).

Referee: J Keay.

By DAVID MADDOCK

THE EXCITED mass of Macclesfield Town supporters brought poignancy to the embittered celebration of their team's GM Vauxhall Conference triumph after their 4-1 win over Kettering Town at Rockingham Road on Saturday.

Sammy McIlroy, the manager, refusing to be parted from a Nationwide League baseball cap that had been jammed on to his head, was the first name on their lips — but not far behind came those of Arthur Jones and Steve Payne, linchpin in the centre of defence alongside Neil Howarth,

the captain, and an ever-present in the Conference campaign, had been stricken with appendicitis late on Friday night. He will return for the challenges that await next season.

Not so Jones, the former chairman, whose dedication to the club had a worthy memorial in a Moss Rose ground that now meets requirements and so ensured the team would suffer no repeat of the厄运 endured when they won the Conference two years ago.

His suicide last September, and the financial uncertainty that followed, might have destroyed Macclesfield but served instead to unite a

loyal, tight-knit core of players behind their gifted and passionate manager.

For the club, the tasks are to bring in new backs with the clout to take them forward and to secure the future of their manager, whose contract runs out next month. For McIlroy, the priorities were a celebration appropriate to a feat so great, a 100th triumph and to build upon the nucleus of a team

that has combined style and resilience in equal measure.

It was a tribute to his acumen that it was two recent signings, Peter Davenport and Chris Byrne, who supplied the goals after Macclesfield had been shocked by life by Lyne's heraldic 10th-minute goal. The start had been delayed by 15 minutes on behalf of Macclesfield's swelling support.

Any Macclesfield wobble was swiftly stilled as Byrne crossed the byline and, after Judge had flapped Davenport on the line, let the ball run off his body into the net. Byrne's dazzling hat-trick in 20 minutes, a ferocious header from Davenport's corner, a 25-yard left-footer curved to perfection and a headed finish from another corner brought Macclesfield close to an explosion of emotion.

McIlroy raced onto the pitch to scale Byrne's slight shoulders after his first goal. "The referee was very good about it," he said. "He just said he'd never seen me run so fast

in my playing days." Arms punched the air in the directors' box upon the news that Kidderminster had lost 3-1 at Gateshead — the home crowd swiftly supplied a bottle of champagne. When the supporters got the message, a roar to sing the spine-welting McIlroy's men that their season's work had brought its deserved reward.

KETTERING TOWN (3-5-2) 1 A Judge — D Tapperton, G Williams, G Martin, S Smith, S Chapman, J March — C Pearson (sub: L Duffield, 78), N Lynn (sub: P Miles, 65)

MACCLESFIELD TOWN (4-4-2) 2 P Price — C Edney, N Houghton, D Dawson, M Bradshaw (sub: D Gee, 52) — P Davenport (sub: L Duffield, 78), N Sonneveld, C Byrne, S Wood — J Ashley, P Power

Referee: D Bryan

PLAY-OFF MATCHES: Crystal Palace v Wolverhampton, Bradford United v Ipswich. First-leg matches to be played May 11.

PLAY-OFF MATCHES: Crewe v Luton, Bristol City v Bradford. First-leg matches to be played May 11.

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\* Palace match may catch to May 10 to avoid clash with Wimbledon's home Premiership match.

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RACING: FALON RIDES FIRST CLASSIC WINNER TO CEMENT RELATIONSHIP WITH NEWMARKET TRAINER

# Cecil works oracle with Sleepytime

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

**BUCK**  
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**HENRY CECIL** has worked many wonders in an illustrious career but few can rank alongside his grooming of Sleepytime. A humbled filly when routed at Newbury two weeks ago, Sleepytime looked every inch a champion yesterday when she reduced the Pertemps £1000 Guineas to a real procession.

It was down to Cecil's intuitive skills that Sleepytime retained her dignity in the build-up to this race. She looked short of quality when well beaten in her trial. Yet Cecil urged supporters to keep their faith, and his own was handsomely justified when the daughter of Royal Academy came through between Oh Nelle and Dazzle before powering away under Kieren Fallon to the tune of four lengths.

Fallon, whose first classic winner this was, played his part in Sleepytime's eclipse at Newbury. He will have been anxious when the bay again encountered traffic soon after halfway; the contest was unfolding in earnest as Pas De Reprise, the French-trained favourite, ranged up to the pace-setting Oh Nelle.

This time, however, Fallon was able to manoeuvre for racing room, his mount's powerful stride sweeping her up and beyond the leaders with nonchalant ease. In the paddock she looked a good deal better than before her recent debacle — and she ran like it, too, relegating Dance Parade.

Sleepytime seemed clear of it but you can never be sure." Just as Sleepytime made a nonsense of trial form, Oh Nelle reduced to rubble the foundations of the Nell Gwyn Stakes — in which Reunion brushed her aside with authority. Running in the Michael Tabor silks donned successfully by Entrepreneur, Oh Nelle threatened a major upset before she was scythed down by Sleepytime. Dazzle, too, excelled herself in taking third place and now heads for the Irish equivalent. Pas De Reprise, by contrast, was compromised by her headstrong tendencies and weakened tamely into fourth.

Such was Sleepytime's overwhelming superiority in the final furlong that the Oaks briefly loomed as a possible target. But Cecil quickly stymied the speculation. "It is very doubtful she will go for the Oaks," he said. "Things did not go her way here but she handled the situation well. I'd like to take her to Ascot for the Coronation Stakes. She should improve and flourish as the weather warms up."

Cecil's last comment sounds distinctly ominous. This looked a competitive renewal of the filly classic but Sleepytime's domination could not have been more pronounced. (Indeed, it might even require an encounter with her stablemate, Bosra Sham, to see her beaten by one of her own gender.)



Sleepytime and Fallon power clear in yesterday's Pertemps 1,000 Guineas at Newmarket

## KEMPTON PARK

### THUNDERER

- 2.10 Memorial 4.10 Zeltzane  
2.40 Traceability 4.40 Bold Oriental  
3.10 FOREST ROBIN (nap) 5.10 Badminton  
3.40 Blue Queen 5.40 Seafish

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.40 Traceability, 3.10 Almond Rock.

**4.40 GOLD ORIENTAL** (nap).

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-8F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

BETTING: 9-1 Allasses, 2-1 Concorde Star, 7-1 Tote, 7-1 Form, 8-1 Star Manager, 10-1 Almond Rock, 12-1 others.

WIN NO CORRESPONDING RACE

### FORM FOCUS

**2.10 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND POLYANTHUS MAIDEN STAKES** (2-Y-O, £3,355; 50) (8 runners)

101 (7) MEMORIAL (Half-brother to Winter's Choice) POETTO (5 Lungs) 9-0

102 (5) RENZO 181 (P) (by Burkhardt) Mr A Penrell 4-12

103 (2) SERGEANT (P) (by Merlin) 9-0

104 (1) AMIGLIO (26.0, 10.0, 10.0, 10.0, 10.0, 10.0) 9-0

105 (1) ANGELIQUE (A (Andrea)) 14 Chances 8-9

106 (1) DIAMON GELVER (A (Andrea)) 14 Chances 8-9

107 (5) REALLY DONE IT (P) (Garrido) 14 Chances 8-9

108 (1) NOT ALL OVER IT (Acosta) & (P) (Acosta) 14 Chances 8-9

109 (1) ANOTHER FANTASY (P) (Hicks) 14 Chances 8-9

BETTING: 11-1 Memorial, 2-1 Another Fantasy, 9-2 Silver Star, 8-1 Poetico, 5-1 Acosta, 8-1

102-11 16-1 Angelique, 16-1 Gelver, 16-1 Poetico, 16-1 Acosta, 16-1 Another Fantasy

WIN NO CORRESPONDING RACE

### FORM FOCUS

**2.40 SAXON HOUSE HANDICAP** (£3,534; 1m 4f) (12 runners)

201 (3) 00024 TRACEABILITY (P) (H-J Al-Jazoor) W Hens 9-5

202 (10) POETTO (5 Lungs) 9-0

203 (2) RENZO 181 (P) (by Burkhardt) Mr A Penrell 4-12

204 (9) GRAND SPLENDOUR 16 (44) (Koch) 9-0

205 (1) 00024 GRAND SPLENDOUR 16 (44) (Koch) 9-0

206 (11) 00024 CLOUDS HILL 297 (P) (Acosta) 9-0

207 (1) 00024 DURHAM 325 (C.J. Parker) 9-0

208 (1) 00024 SUPERME SOUND 16 (P) (Acosta) 9-0

209 (1) 00024 BLUES QUEEN 16 (P) (Acosta) 9-0

210 (1) 00024 SAXON HOUSE 24 (D.J. St) (Acosta) 9-0

211 (1) 00024 GREENWICH FOAL 17 (Hicks) 9-0

212 (1) 00024 BLUE AND ROYAL 563 (P) (Acosta) 9-0

213 (1) 00024 LONG HANDBALL 16 (P) (Acosta) 9-0

214 (1) 00024 SUPREME SOUND 16 (P) (Acosta) 9-0

215 (1) 00024 STARDUST 24 (D.J. St) (Acosta) 9-0

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CRICKET: LANCASHIRE SPINNER MAKES AMENDS AFTER RUNNING INTO TROUBLE OVER ATHERTON'S DISMISSAL

## Yates atones to prolong Derbyshire's agony

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

**DERBY** (Lancashire won toss); Lancashire (4pts) beat Derbyshire by 34 runs

**DESPITE** a bracing innings from Dean Jones, their captain, Derbyshire went down to a second successive one-day defeat yesterday after rain interrupted their reply to Lancashire's 262 for seven. Lancashire prevailed by 34 runs, after Derbyshire's target was revised to 252 from 38 overs, and the result was officially determined as victory on runs instead of a faster scoring rate.

The end of a poor Axa Life League match, one that nevertheless was within Derbyshire's reach, was fairly tame. Wasim Akram, restored to the Lancashire team at the end of their unhappy week in the Benson and Hedges Cup, cleaned up the Derbyshire batsmen, and with three easy wickets as sunlight flooded the ground, Derbyshire had more or less given up by then, and a ridiculous long afternoon concluded shortly before 8pm.

Gary Yates, who is now considered Lancashire's first-choice spin bowler in championship cricket as well as the one-day variety, where he has always pulled his weight,

also took three wickets to break the back of the Derbyshire middle order. But it was Richard Green, the rookie medium-fast bowler, who ripped off Jones's middle stump shortly after the interruption for rain, and once Jones had gone, Derbyshire struggled to maintain the impetus his innings had provided.

Karl Krikken, who had accompanied Kim Barnett in a lively manner when Derbyshire won the Benson and Hedges Cup game at Old Trafford last Wednesday, was left with too much to do after DeFreitas drove Yates to long on. His wicket was the eighth to fall and supplied

the filling in Wasim's "yorker sandwich". If the day ended well for Yates it began unsatisfactorily, and in the most peculiar manner. Acting as runner for Michael Atherton, who strained his groin in the opening over of the game, he was complicit in the dismissal of the England captain. When Krikken took off the bails to Dean's bowling, Atherton's back foot was anchored, but Yates was idling at square leg and it was to him that Krikken pointed when making the appeal. Atherton, therefore, was run out without leaving the crease.

What Atherton is doing playing in

these matches is a subject for debate, and if Lancashire are not debating the subject they jolly well ought to be. He is not exactly a leading contributor to their Sunday performances. Perhaps, though, this is his benefit year; he feels that he owes the team some runs and that this is one way of keeping his name before people. Lancashire would be doing him, and England, a favour if they told him to clear off on Sundays.

Once again the Lancashire innings was dominated by Graham Lloyd, who has started the season in formidable style. He made 81 from 74 balls, which is positively sluggish

given the way that he has torn into county attacks so far. Last week, you may recall, he took Durham for the little matter of 134, equaling Clive Lloyd's record Sunday score for the county. He will not always get away with his reverse sweeping - reverse pulling, at times - but, for the time being, he can do pretty much as he pleases.

Fairbrother, the other smiter, also middled the ball. In 18 overs the pair added 128 for the fourth wicket until Lloyd swatted Harris to deep mid-wicket, where Dean took a good tumbling catch. Fairbrother's 54 was his best of the day, though he dabbled in the alloted time.

### Middlesex made to suffer at the hands of the Laws

By PAT GIBSON

**CHELMSFORD** (Middlesex won toss); Essex (Hpt) beat Middlesex by 66 runs

**MIDDLESEX** fell foul of the Laws, Stuart, Danny and the statutes of the Axa Life League, yesterday and paid a heavy price. They were not only sentenced in a crushing defeat by Essex, but also fined £600 for failing to bowl their overs in the allotted time.

It has been a miserable start to the season for them. Humiliated by Ireland in their opening Benson and Hedges Cup match and subsequently knocked out of the competition by Essex and Glamorgan before the qualifying rounds have been completed, they looked a dispirited side on their first Sunday outing.

Essex on the other hand, are in buoyant mood: they have now won their first four one-day games and appear to be a force to be reckoned with in this kind of cricket again.

They made hard work of beating Middlesex in the Cup at Lord's last week but now it was almost too easy. Stuart Law made 74 and Danny Law 55 to lead them to a total of 256 and then Cowan, Holt and Irani all bowled the ball crumbled.

On top of that, Barry Hyam, 21, their reserve wicketkeeper, who was playing only because Robert Rollins was nursing a damaged finger, equalled the Essex record of five dismissals in a Sunday league match.

Sunday cricket is supposed to be a fun game but it was not much fun for Mike Gatting, the Middlesex captain, who found nothing going right for him from the moment he asked Essex to bat in anticipation of an interrupted match.

In the event it did not rain at all and the only thunder was in Gatting's expression as his bowlers sprayed the ball all over the place. Prichard and Stuart Law rattled up 60 in 11 overs for the first wicket and then Grayson picked up the momentum in a fifth-wicket stand of 80 in ten overs.

Smart Law hit 79 off 75 balls, with a six and nine fours, Grayson made 36 with a six and six fours, and finally Danny Law weighed in with 55 off only 38 balls, with two sixes and four fours.

It was all too much for Middlesex, who had left themselves only 38 overs to get the runs. They sent in Jacques Kallis, their overseas player, to take up the challenge but he could only watch as they lost their first four wickets for 22 in 13 balls.

Kallis then fell to Irani and all that remained was for the tail to try to save them from the indignity of their heaviest Sunday defeat. At least they managed to do that. Their last two wickets raised 88, with Fraser reaching his highest Sunday score of 33.

## Sussex slide away after damp start

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

**HOVE** (Nottinghamshire won toss); Nottinghamshire (4pts) beat Sussex by six wickets

**THE SUSSEX** spirit is energetically willing but the flesh, so to speak, is weak. For all the vibrant, progressive running the club, tangible advances will be slow and slight while their playing staff is so demonstratively inadequate. This was their second successive Sunday caning; sadly, they must prepare for more.

Nottinghamshire may fare little better in the championship, for their bowling is dreadfully thin, but the short game suits them well and few come shorter than this. It was reduced by morning rain to 23 overs per side, little more than a village beer match really, and there was seldom much doubt about the result.

Although Sussex made a

and looked a considerable prospect. Such a pity that he was held back to number nine before sharing an unbroken stand of 42 from 29 balls with Keith Greenfield.

By then, the Sussex innings had come off the critical list, a slight occasioned by losing their first three wickets for four runs, thanks largely to the loyal and essentially local Greenfield. He is Brighton born and bred and, at 28, will never be the player Sussex felt he might become. Last season was his best in all cricket, however, and he will not lack for opportunity on this denuded staff.

Greenfield shared stands of 46 in seven overs with Mark Newell, deputising for his stricken brother Keith, and 49 in nine overs with the captain, Peter Moore. Sussex then subsided again, another three wickets surrendered for three runs, before Pyemont played with instant assurance while Greenfield completed his second consecutive Sunday century.

Sussex bowled resolutely and their fielding was keen and agile; they simply did not have sufficient runs to defend. With an already weakened attack further ruined by the injuries to Kirby and Lewry, this will regularly be their fate.

They did take an early wicket but its effect was to reunite Nottinghamshire's most accomplished pair, Robinson and Johnson, made six Sunday fifties apiece last season, when the title was conceded to Surrey only on run-rate, and they each made another one now. Their stand of 96 in 15 overs all but settled the game.

Johnson perished in the occasional seam of Lehman and Nottinghamshire suffered a minor decline. When Pollard was caught they still needed 17 from as many balls, but successive fours quelled Sussex's ambitions.

Under-19 tag of war ..... 39

Scotland's mission ..... 39

better, first of it, than had seemed likely when their first three wickets went down for 20, even 160 was barely competitive on a pitch that was both true and remarkably quick for early May. Tim Robinson and Paul Johnson, doughtyly accomplished at this type of thing, found the pursuit mere routine and, although neither saw it through, victory was claimed with seven balls to spare.

Sussex are at least approaching things positively. This will be a difficult summer, potentially several summers, but by omitting Ashby and Taylor on Sundays to include younger men, they are encouraging a better future.

James Pyemont, the schoolboy cricketer of the year, after passing 1,000 runs for Tonbridge last season, played his second Axa Life game here

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Gary Butcher, of Glamorgan, drives at Keith Parsons during the defeat by Somerset yesterday at Taunton

## Solid Lathwell is quick to impress

By DEREK HODGSON

**TAUNTON** (Somerset won toss); Somerset beat Glamorgan by six wickets

**SOMERSET** forgot their last-ball defeat by Surrey with their comfortable victory, engineered mainly by a cracking 72 off 62 balls, from Mark Lathwell. If Dermot Reeve can bring Lathwell's outstanding talent to maturity, the coach will do English cricket a great service.

Somerset were set a modest 208 to win and Lathwell's contribution included eight boundaries, but it is a six over square leg off Keith Parsons that will be remembered.

Although Matthew Maynard was leg before Wimbats' top-spinner, at 43, Glamorgan made a spirited recovery through Adrian Dale, Tony Cottey, who included a six off Parsons, and a vigorous tail which had to cope with Andrew Caddick's clever use of the conditions.

The match opened with Jason Kerr bowling into a half-gale across the pitch, delivering five wides in the first over. Steve James was less amused by the tenth ball which cut back enough to flatten middle stump. When Hugh Morris was bowled in the second over Glamorgan stood at six for two without a run off the bat.

Although Matthew Maynard was leg before Wimbats' top-spinner, at 43, Glamorgan made a spirited recovery through Adrian Dale, Tony Cottey, who included a six off Parsons, and a vigorous tail which had to cope with Andrew Caddick's clever use of the conditions.

Richard Harden, with the sensible assistance of his captain, took Somerset home without haste or hassle.

They look well motivated for the one-day game, but may have difficulty, if Caddick is called up by England, to bowl teams out twice.

Steve Watkin extracted his usual opener before Lathwell and Simon Ecclestone raised 54 in 14 overs, the latter failing to an accurate long throw by Dale. Maynard's call on Cottey brought the downfall of Lathwell, at 124, failing to clear mid on, and, although Cottey and Robert Croft restricted Somerset to 32 in 10 overs, the target over the last 10 was only 47.

Richard Harden, with the sensible assistance of his captain, took Somerset home without haste or hassle.

They look well motivated for the one-day game, but may have difficulty, if Caddick is called up by England, to bowl teams out twice.

## Lehmann sparkles as Hayden struggles

By BARNEY SPENDER

**SOUTHAMPTON** (Yorkshire won toss); Yorkshire (Apts) beat Hampshire by 71 runs

IT WAS a dull, cheerless day in Southampton and this was a game of cricket to match as Yorkshire cantered to a comfortable win in their opening Sunday league game of the season. These are still early days, but already Hampshire have the look of a team that will struggle. The first two Sunday games have been lost and they are out of the Benson and Hedges Cup after losing their three group games so far.

It is true that, as Yorkshire were threatening to run up a massive total, the slow left-arm, Rajesh Maru, kept Hampshire in contention. His fine spell, which gave him figures of four for 29 - his best in the competition - helped limit Yorkshire to 227. Jason Laney showed glimpses of promise in his innings 47, but there was little else to cheer.

There was a spectacular end to the Hampshire innings. Already behind the required run-rate, they lost their last nine wickets in seven overs, the last three falling in five deliveries to a delighted Darren Gough.

Some of the blame must be shouldered by Hampshire's new overseas player, the Australian opener Matthew Hayden, who struggled to find any sense of timing. He needed 87 balls to score 43 and held up the innings. It was his dismissal, caught behind off the excellent Silverwood, in the 30th over, which sparked the collapse.

Hayden is too good a player not to score heavily in England this summer but he must have cast an envious glance in the direction of his compatriot, Darren Lehmann, who launched the Yorkshire innings with a fluent 65 from 75 balls, mixing boundaries with quick singles, suggesting that Yorkshire members will learn to grow as fond of him as they did of his predecessor, Michael Bevan.

Smart Law hit 79 off 75 balls, with a six and nine fours, Grayson made 36 with a six and six fours, and finally Danny Law weighed in with 55 off only 38 balls, with two sixes and four fours.

It was all too much for Middlesex, who had left themselves only 38 overs to get the runs. They sent in Jacques Kallis, their overseas player, to take up the challenge but he could only watch as they lost their first four wickets for 22 in 13 balls.

Kallis then fell to Irani and all that remained was for the tail to try to save them from the indignity of their heaviest Sunday defeat. At least they managed to do that. Their last two wickets raised 88, with Fraser reaching his highest Sunday score of 33.

## Welch leads Bears home

By IVO TENNANT

**EDGBASTON** (Warwickshire won toss); Warwickshire (4pts) beat Northamptonshire by five wickets on a revised scoring rate

A FORMER general manager of Fulham FC has been appointed to run the marketing at Edgbaston, which is no small job. Stuart Dalrymple outlined his plans for change and innovation yesterday. "We are having a Warwickshire bear made and are looking for both a volunteer to be the bear and a name for it," he announced in all solemnity.

He has other ideas, too, including fancy dress and best-banner competitions. Above all, though, Dalrymple wants to market Warwickshire as the "Bears", matching Edgware's "Lions". So runs the thinking of those who regard

Northamptonshire batsmen ran themselves out.

The Bears prospers yesterday. Neil Smith, emulating M.J. Jones by capturing Warwickshire (the first time a father and son have done so), put Northamptonshire in. So restrictive were the bowlers he used that he did not have to come on himself. Donald was used that he did not have to come on himself. Donald was when there was an old-fashioned occurrence yesterday, it was when Smith was run out through finding himself at the same end as Penney.

After that, Warwickshire progressed to their victory as serenely as is possible in this form of the game. Off the last five overs they required 37 with, importantly, seven wickets intact. Hempsley swung Follett straight to deep square leg and Wasim Khan went to Curran first ball, but, that same over, Welch went down, the pitch and swung a six over cover. It was the decisive blow.

There was only one partnership of note in spite of the decent conditions. Curran, coming in higher up the order than last season, added 53 in 14 overs with Walton before he too, was caught at the wicket, looking to run Edmond to third man. Three

wickets, two by Follett and one by Walton, were the difference.

With Follett and Walton out, the last four overs were a battle between Follett and Penney, with Follett taking 10 and Penney 11. Follett's 100 was the difference between the two sides.

Penney's 110 was the difference between the two sides.

Edmond, who had been dropped for the last two overs, was the difference between the two sides.

Walton, who had been dropped for the last two overs, was the difference between the two sides.

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Walton, who had been dropped for the last two overs, was the difference between the two sides





James Henderson joins a hardy group on an annual walk across Scotland, just for fun

# Take a walk on the wild side

TONY WEST

**I**t's not often that you see a grown man excited about seeing the sea. But, to be fair, he had just climbed nearly 2,000 ft to the summit of Mount Keen in the Eastern Grampians, having walked most of the way across Scotland over the previous ten days.

He was walking from coast to coast as part of the Great Outdoors Challenge and this was his first glimpse of his goal, the North Sea. He had a smile as big as Cheshire cats.

The Great Outdoors Challenge is a hill-walking event, held each May. On Saturday 250 walkers will set out on the nineteenth Challenge and for the following ten to fourteen days they will walk from Scotland's west coast to east, through a swathe of Britain's most extreme and beautiful terrain.

The Challenge is quite informal. Walkers can start at any one of ten official start points, they can finish almost anywhere on the east coast and they can go anywhere on the way.

Some people walk on tracks all the way; others take off into the heather. Most camp, but participants are allowed to spend every night in a bed and breakfast if they wish. Some walk with partners, others with people they meet along the route.

Walkers are required to phone organisers every couple of days for safety reasons, but timings are elastic. The few firm rules are: no motorised help and no dogs, and no running.

The Challenge is not a race. Wanting to "win" is to miss the point. In the best traditions of Scottish hill-walking, participants set a goal for themselves — a challenging one if they want — and do their best to stick to it.

The reward comes in the

completion. There is no winner — except, possibly, the person who has the nicest time in Scotland's magnificent surroundings.

There are certain natural funnels in the crossing and in Glen Esk (beneath Mount Keen) I met a crowd of Challengers who had pitched camp at Tarfside. There are all sorts on the Challenge: voices from various parts of the UK (and a few from abroad), but walkers being as they are, it is a friendly event. An occasional passing shower caused the impromptu debates on food, equipment and the walk to dissolve in a chorus of zipping noises as everyone retreated into their tents.

Walkers select their own routes and send them in for comment by the organisers, who provide advice from their knowledge and experience of the event with 11 crossings to his name.

In May there is at least a reasonable chance of good weather in Scotland and it stays light late into the evening. However, there can be some snow around and walkers on "high-level" routes, which include 12 Munros (summits over 3,000 ft) or Corbetts (2,500 ft), take an axe with them.

Challengers go to odd and sometimes comic lengths to look after themselves. They send parcels of food and spare socks to post offices along the route, and have even been known to bury things on their route before starting the Challenge. A shop in Tarfside is particularly popular because of its hot bacon sandwiches.

Last year's Challenge was a tough one. The weather was so cold that during the first week walkers were waking up to find nearby water holes were frozen over.

Unusual easterlies meant that participants were walking into a strong wind most of the way. During the second week it pored — and 24 people retired from the event, an unusually high number.

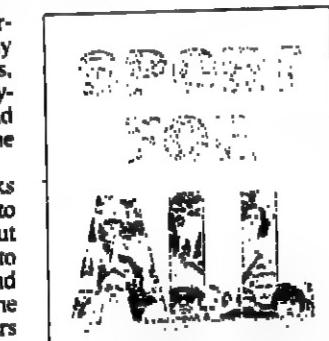
In Montrose at the end of the Challenge I saw many faces I knew, now shaven and clean and sometimes barely recognisable. Walkers streamed in from their finish points on the east coast for the dinners and presentations.

In the congenial warmth the low moments had been forgotten and the stories got taller as the spirits got higher.

The walkers glowed with

the knowledge of having faced the Challenge and triumphed and it was gratifying to hear them reel off their route, knowing that every kilometre of it was etched on their hearts.

Derek Emsley told me how he had heard someone, after enduring hours of misery walking into driving wind and rain, turn to her walking partner and say: "Well, have we decided where we're going to start next year then?"



Scotland. They might pass anything from the state of a footbridge to the location of ancient archaeological sites worth inspecting.

The Challenge certainly is a challenge, even by the easiest route. A typical low-level crossing will still involve a number of climbs over passes.

Most importantly, walkers must be prepared for the capricious nature of the weather. Everyone takes camping equipment which can weigh at least 30 lb. After walking for

SCOTLAND's weather is unpredictable and can change at a moment's notice, even in the height of summer. It is perfectly possible to be safe but you need to be prepared.

- Take a map and compass and know how to use them
- Have all the equipment you need for survival in the worst case
- Let someone know your intended route and your expected time of arrival

If you get lost you can return in the direction you came from, take a bearing on a big target such as a road or river, or simply follow streams, tracks and roads, low ground (watching for gullies) and eventually to settlement.

Plenty of books with safety tips can be found in climbing shops and bookshops. The Mountaineering Council of Scotland (tel: 01738 638227, fax: 01738 442095) publishes leaflets and maps with information about walking safety, accommodation and emergency telephone numbers.

All land in Scotland is owned by someone and there is no specific right to roam, but there is de facto access — most landlords will not attempt to stop you walking over unfenced land. Go respectfully: close gates, do not litter, do not stray too close to houses and do not disturb wildlife during the season.

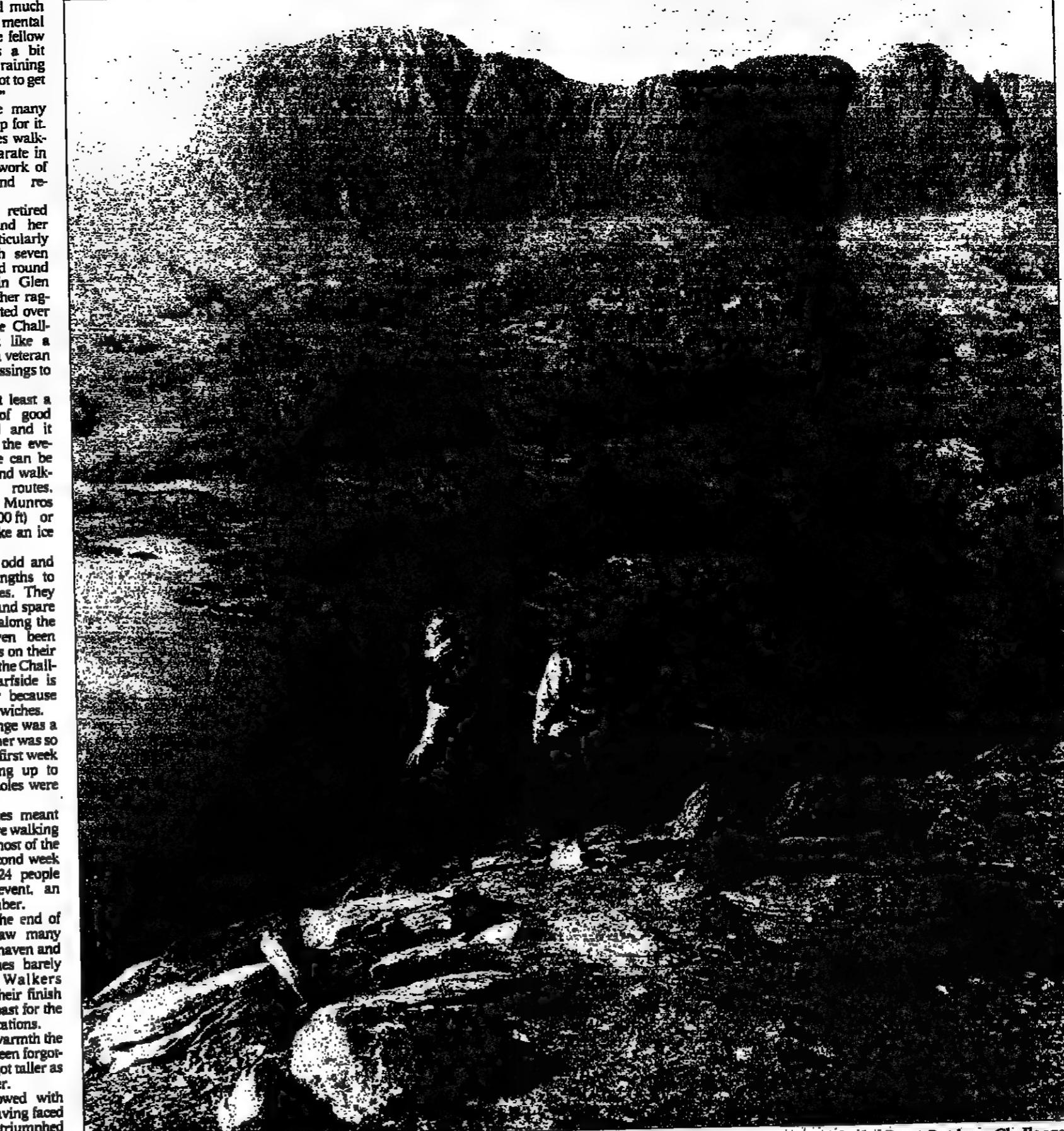
## SAFETY FIRST

THE equipment needed for hill-walking will vary according to the time of year, but here are a few hints. Prices vary enormously.

**BOOTS:** Foot comfort is vital, because there is nothing quite like bad blisters to make you lose interest.

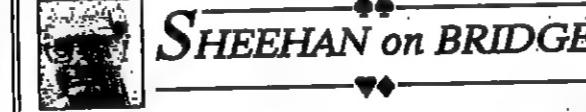
Scotland is generally wet underfoot and although you will probably never keep your feet dry, you should have waterproof boots which provide good ankle support (leather boots are really the best) and they should be well worn-in. Most people wear a thin pair of socks inside a thick pair. Wear gaiters in wet conditions.

**CLOTHES:** Walk in light trousers that can be dried easily (not jeans). On top, think layers: at least take an extra T-shirt and a sweatshirt. A waterproof jacket is essential, and you may also want waterproof trousers. Gore-tex works well most of the year. You can vary your body temperature with gloves and a hat. Take a fleecy top or a warm jersey for when you



It's a long, tough walk, sometimes in atrocious weather, but the views make it all worthwhile for participants in the Great Outdoors Challenge

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE



## KEENE on CHESS



### By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The South African international Henry Mansell was caught napping on this hand in the TGR high game. Do you see a way for East-West to beat Four Hearts?

Dealer South Love all Rubber bridge

♦J 8			
♦K 9 8			
♦K 7 6			
♦4 3 2			
♦Q 5 4 3	♦A 10 9 8		
♦8 8 8 3	♦W 7		
♦—	♦8 8 8 3 2		
♦A K Q 6 5 4 2	♦10 7 6		
	♦K 8 7		
	♦A 10 7 2		
	♦A Q 10 4		
	♦5 3		

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: two of clubs

Howard Cohen (West) tried the lead of the two of clubs against Four Hearts. His idea was to hope his partner had an entry in clubs. Then if his partner won the first trick, he would ask himself why West had underled AK-Q of clubs.

It would soon be obvious it was because West had a diamond void.

It actually worked out like that. Declarer played low from dummy on the first trick.

East played the ten and returned the nine of diamonds, indicating an entry in the higher ranking suit.

South never knew he had won the first trick. We play a more caring game nowadays.

Of course, Mansell should have played the jack of clubs at trick one; paying insufficient attention to a suit in

for reasons similar to Cohen's on today's hand. West's opening lead was the four. East

played the eight, South the nine and East gathered in the cards and led to the next trick.

South never knew he had won the first trick. We play a more caring game nowadays.

Robert Sheehan writes on Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

### First blood

Garry Kasparov opened his campaign against IBM's Deep Blue computer Mark II with a crushing victory. Yet, at one point, Kasparov appeared to have lost control and the IBM team of boffins who programmed Deep Blue were celebrating what appeared to be a likely victory for their machine.

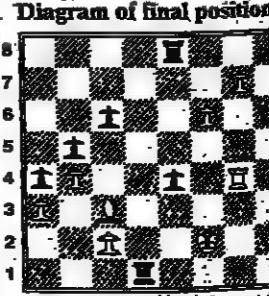
Kasparov opened his game with an impeccably selected strategic opening, the type designed to cause computers maximum difficulty.

White: Garry Kasparov  
Black: Deep Blue  
New York May 1997

### Ref Opening

1 N3	d5		
2 g3	Bd4		
3 b3	c5		
4 a2	a5		
5 Bg2	Ng8		
6 d2	c5		
7 d3	Bd6		
8 Nbd2	d4		
9 h3	Bh5		
10 c2	h5		
11 Qe1	Qd5		
12 Rf1	Bc7		
13 Nh4	g5		
14 Nh3	e5		
15 e4	Rh8		
16 Nf2	Qb6		
17 Qc1	a5		
18 Rb1	Bd6		
19 Nd1	d4		
20 Qd4	b5		
21 Ne3	Re8		
22 Nh1	g4		
23 h4	Ng4		
24 f3	Nxe3		
25 Kf1	Bd7		
26 Ne3	Bg5		
27 Re2	a4		

### Diagram of final position



### Key moments

Deep Blue could have tried 30...Bxf4 31...gxf4 and only now 31...Bxe2 but, in that case White would win with 32.Qd2 attacking Black's bishop, followed by 33.Qc2. A debate still continues as to whether Black's feeble 36...Rxe2 move might have been more profitably replaced by 36...Ng4, trying to remove White's blockading knight on h3.

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- WHIMMING**  
a. A marsh bird  
b. A faint velvety  
c. A weak person
- COMPOTATION**  
a. Scottish matriculation  
b. A system of statistics  
c. A symposium

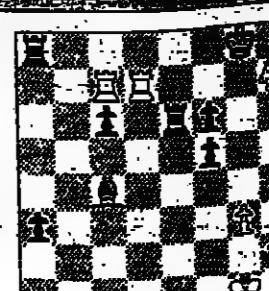
Answers on page 45

## WINNING WORDS

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Morphy — Maurian, played at New Orleans. Doubled rooks on the seventh rank are an immensely powerful force. How does White effectively demonstrate this here?

Solution on page 45



Fed up with  
nasty, thieving,  
grubby  
little hands?

(So buy your own copy!)

Have you noticed that the classroom rates of the TES disappears into somewhere during term time before you've had a chance to read it? Well, you are missing a essential reading for teachers. Every week, the TES highlights the important issues with vital information for your career. As an educational Primary and Pre-School section, the 9th May issue includes: a Head Primary Update, call-outs with articles on league tables, letters from Ofsted, and Pre-school raising standards and more.

Now, can you make sure you don't miss it? Elementary. With your newspaper on Friday and buy your own copy!

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**TES**

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Take a map and compass — and learn how to use them



# Post-Keynesian keeper of an estate of grace



Dalgety days: Richard Clothier, left, and John Martyn

**W**hen John Martyn decided that his career should change course, he could not have envisaged the direction it would take. Skilled finance directors who are prepared to swap a £220,000 salary for ideals and self-f fulfilment are rarities.

When Michael Beloff, QC, learned that Mr Martyn was looking for new opportunities he pounced. The result is that Trinity College, Oxford, now has one of the most high-powered estates bursars to be found in academe.

Last Thursday, Mr Martyn left his post at Dalgety, the cattle feed and pet foods group where Richard Clothier is chief executive, and called a halt to his regular commuting on the M40 from his Oxford home to his London office. Now he will be able to walk or cycle to work. Yet when he resigned last November, he had not considered that he might turn his efforts to the university.

The Times must claim some responsibility for this. Mr Beloff, the president of Trinity, read about Mr Martyn's departure in these pages, just as he was confronting the problem of how to recruit a new estates bursar.

John Wright, an economics fellow, retires from the post this year at the age of 70. All too aware of the usual difficulties of recruiting someone with City experience on an academic salary, Mr Beloff wrote a speculative letter.

It worked. Several months later, Mr Martyn, an economic history graduate from Exeter University, has just been elected to the post by the college's governing body. The

**A**dam Jones on the finance director whose resignation led unexpectedly to an administrative post at an Oxford college



Michael Beloff, the president of Trinity, who wrote to Mr Martyn after reading his resignation in The Times

role of estates bursar revolves around the college's endowment — the nest egg that bankrolls the college's operation.

The job involves nurturing the college's investment portfolio of equities and property and lending a hand to the fundraising that is an inevitable part of modern university life.

Tasks like the upkeep of buildings and the arranging of conferences fall into the estates bursar's remit.

Trinity's 450th anniversary in 2005 will be an obvious focal point for efforts to further secure its financial future. Trinity is coy about the full

extent of its wealth, but it is substantial. At their grandest, Oxbridge colleges are not far behind the Crown and the Church of England.

Mr Martyn is thrilled to have the college's fortunes in his care. "It fits in with what I wanted to do," he says.

His week will now involve

two to three days at Trinity, and two to three days at the Littlewoods group, where he is a non-executive director.

In addition, there is the charity work at the Gatehouse, a drop-in centre for the homeless on St Michael's Street, a couple of hundred metres away from Trinity, but a

world away in social terms. There is also the post of treasurer to a project assisting psychiatric patients on their discharge from Oxfordshire's Littlemore Hospital.

This is clearly not the timetable of a man who left the City to spend more time with his begonias. Mr Martyn, however, is rather sheepish about suggestions that he was withdrawing from the world and taking a vow of poverty.

The Gatehouse centre is only open between 5pm and 7pm so it could hardly have been the only focus of Mr Martyn's time. He says: "I do help and I hope to go along once a week now rather than once a month."

The Trinity appointment comes with all the trimmings: a fellowship seat at high table for meals, a vote on the governing body, and an office in one of Trinity's stunning buildings, which include a fine chapel and library. And then there are the renowned gardens, which play host to open-air theatre on summer evenings.

The package obviously has some attractions that Dalgety, with its George Street offices in London's Mayfair, would be hard-pressed to match. But the life of an estates bursar may not be entirely stress-free. There is the pressure of emulating the man who, among the retired military types and academics who have taken this title in the past, stands out as something a bit special.

His name: John Maynard Keynes. His college: King's, Cambridge. Unsurprisingly, given his position as arguably the most influential economist of the 20th century, he made them rather a lot of money.

## Italian textiles super-merger fails

BY OUR CITY STAFF

MARZOTTO, the Italian textile group, has called off a merger with HPI (Holding Partecipazioni Industriali), that would have created one of the world's biggest clothing companies.

The plan was intended to unite names such as Hugo Boss menswear, Fila sportswear and Giorgio Armani into

a €3 billion combine to be called Gruppo Industriale Marzotto. GIM would also have owned Rizzoli Corriere della Sera, Italy's second largest publisher.

Fiat, the carmaker, was to have 17 per cent, Mediobanca 10 per cent and the Marzotto family 12 per cent.

The board of Marzotto halted the deal because of "incompatible differences". The groups, which

had been due to hold shareholders' meetings this month before share swaps in July, failed to agree on the details of how the concern should be structured, run and even financed.

Based on preliminary 1996 results, GIM would have had net profit of about €92 million and more than 21,000 staff, the groups said in March, when they announced the ambitious

plan after HPI was spun-off from the Gemina group.

The merger plan came after the collapse of the so-called "SuperGemina" deal, originated by Enrico Cuccia, Mediobanca's 90-year-old honorary chairman in late 1995, to bundle Gemina's interests with the former Ferruzzi agri-chemicals empire.

Gemina's core interests were hived off into HPI.

## BHP faces widespread strikes

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE  
IN SYDNEY

BHP, Australia's biggest company, is bracing itself for a wave of strikes this week after the decision to close its steel-making operation in the country's industrial heartland of Newcastle.

Yesterday, trade unions announced plans to call a national strike of BHP's 250,000 employees in its coal and iron ore mines, steel and oil plants in protest at the closure, in what they are saying will be their bitterest industrial fight since the 1930s.

Employees in its coal and iron ore mines, steel and oil plants

will extend the dispute." The unions, which still wield considerable power, held a 25-hour strike at the Newcastle steelworks last Friday.

BHP, which makes up 12 per cent of the Australian stock market, announced last week that it would be closing down its steaming operations in Newcastle with the loss of 2,500 jobs because of intense competition worldwide.

wide. Last year BHP's steel profits dropped by 76 per cent to \$153 million (£75 million), reducing its overall profit by 20 per cent to \$1.29 billion.

A restructuring programme is expected to increase its productivity from 700 to 1,000 tonnes of steel per employee a year. Since the restructuring was announced BHP's shares have risen by almost 4 per cent, to \$18.04.

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

# Free child ticket for Alton Towers

**T**he Times, in association with Alton Towers, offers you the chance to get a free child ticket to Britain's most popular theme park. You can enjoy Ripsaw, a new white-knuckle ride which joins the awesome Nemesis, Corkscrew and Black Hole. There is another new attraction, Nickelodeon "Outta" Control, an interactive television adventure

where children become the stars. There are also more than 25 rides and attractions suitable for under-eights including Old MacDonald's farm and an ice show by Peter Rabbit and his friends. You can get extra free child tickets for any of the Tussauds' Group UK attractions during May by buying more copies of *The Times*.

### HOW TO APPLY

Attach token two, which will be published tomorrow, to the voucher below and present them to the main entrance of Alton Towers. When you buy one adult ticket for £18.50 you will get a free child ticket, normally £14.50. (A

child is 13 and under.) You can get more free child tickets by buying extra copies of *The Times* and purchasing an accompanying adult ticket. The offer is valid until May 31, 1997. Alton Towers is open from 9.30am-5pm.

#### THE TIMES/ALTON TOWERS FREE CHILD TICKET VOUCHER

Attach two tokens from *The Times* to this voucher and, when you purchase an adult ticket, you will be admitted with one child at no extra charge, to Alton Towers, Alton, Staffordshire. Present the voucher and tokens at the main entrance ticket booth.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Day Tel (inc STD code) \_\_\_\_\_

OFFER CONDITIONS 1. This offer is valid for one child free when accompanied by one adult paying the full price. 2. The offer applies up to May 31, 1997. 3. Each voucher must be accompanied by two tokens. 4. No photocopies of vouchers or tokens will be accepted. 5. There is no restriction on how many attractions you may visit. 6. You can get more than one free child ticket by purchasing extra newspapers and by buying an accompanying full-price adult ticket. 7. Tokens not for resale and cannot be exchanged for cash. 8. Vouchers may not be used in conjunction with any other discount offer or concession rate.

It would help us if you answered these four questions:

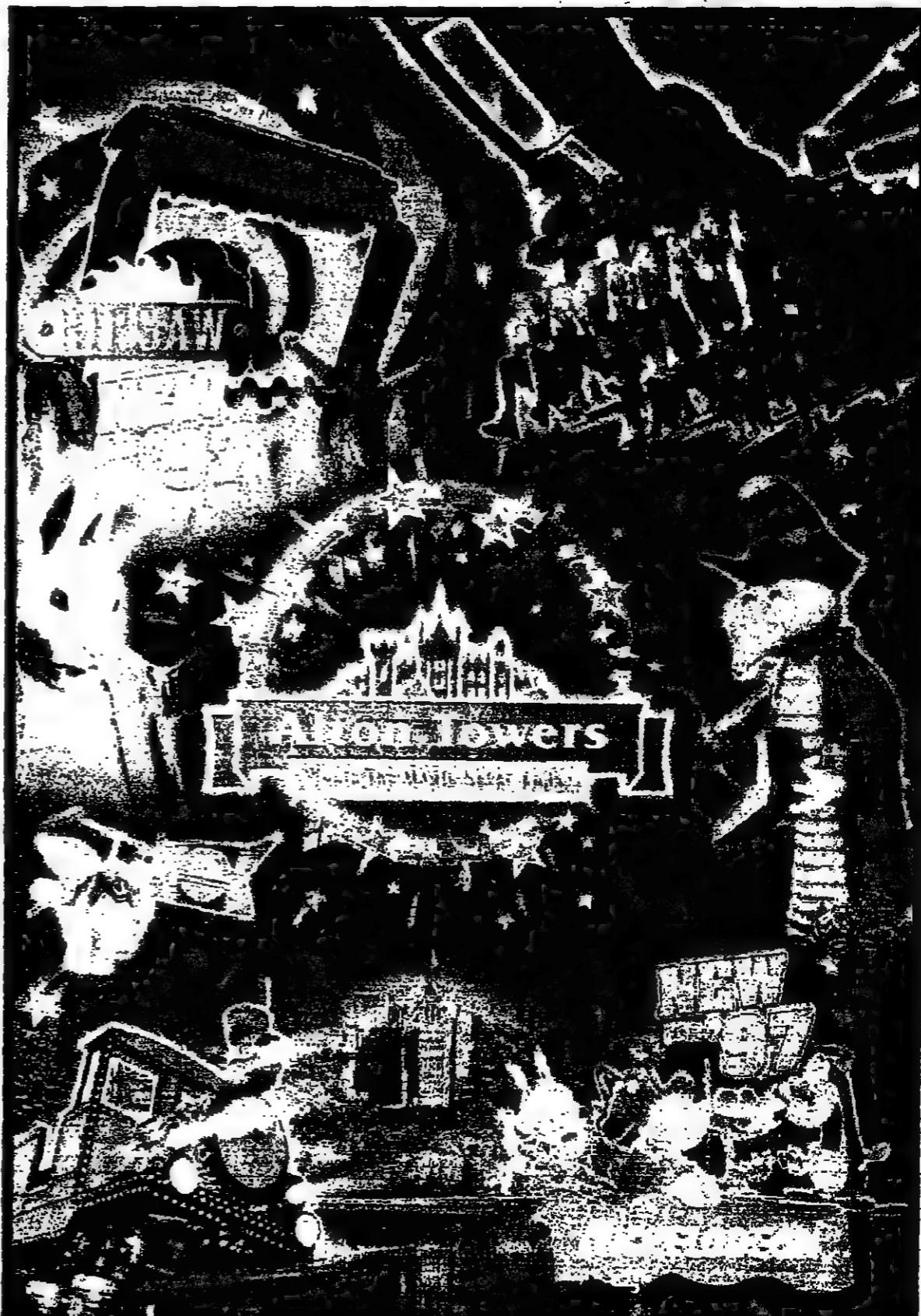
Which one of the following age groups do you fall into? (Please tick)

1) 15-24     2) 25-34     3) 35-44

4) 45-54     5) 55-64     6) 65+

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) during the week?

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by *The Times*, please tick



# Funds start a campaign to stop tax on pensions

By ROBERT MILLER

PENSION Funds will start a campaign this week to persuade the new Labour Chancellor not to raise tax on pension funds. They fear that Gordon Brown may be tempted to impose an "invisible" tax on pension income that would cut future pensions but would not make its full impact for many years ahead.

Tax fears will top the agenda of the National Association of Pension Funds' two-day annual conference at Harrogate on Thursday. The NAPF, which represents £70 billion of funds, is keen to establish a good working relationship with the new Government and wants a key part in consultations on the future of pensions. But it fears Treasury pressures could sabotage funds.

Ann Robinson, director-general of the NAPF, said the association and its members will fight any proposals to change the tax treatment of occupational pension funds, which would be "very damaging to all its members and the millions of people who benefit from their schemes".

In particular, she says possible plans to change the advanced corporation tax (ACT) treatment of pension funds could affect the pensions of millions of local-authority workers. ACT is the tax levied on all company dividends at the rate of 20 per cent. Pension



Robinson: "will fight"

funds, however, can claim this back on the grounds that tax will be paid on the money when it is paid out as monthly pension. The NAPF says that if ACT perks were reduced, or abolished, local authorities would have to raise more money to match the benefits already promised by the schemes. This would be done by either raising council tax rates or, reducing the level and number of local services.

Similarly, company or corporate schemes would have to contribute more for their workers. The NAPF believes the extra funding requirements placed on employers, already struggling with the extra costs of conforming with the new Pensions Act, could prompt employers to switch to cheaper money-purchase schemes.

Corporate pension funds could affect the pensions of millions of local-authority workers. ACT is the tax levied on all company dividends at the rate of 20 per cent. Pension

**THE PREDICTED** post-election rush for stocks on the Alternative Investment Market that qualify for tax relief has failed to materialise, according to traders at Winterflood Securities.

Winterfloods, the main trading house for stocks on the junior exchange, said that the City seems

confident that reinvestment relief — one of AIM's main attractions — will be safe under Labour.

Stephen Roberts, an AIM mar-

ket-maker, said there was no discernible reaction to Labour's victory on Friday, with the FTSE AIM index standing still at 1,080.20.

Many fund managers have voiced

fears that Labour views AIM as a hotbed of "tax loopholes". But analysts are now suggesting that Labour has taken heed of AIM's popularity with private investors, now 65 per cent of the trading.

Far from closing in on the junior exchange it is now thought Labour may consider allowing AIM stocks to be held under personal equity plans. At present, all AIM stocks are treated as unquoted for tax purposes.

FRASER NELSON

## ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

## All quiet on post-election front

1997 High	Low	Mid cap (million)	Price per share	Wkly +/-	YTD %	P/E	1997 High	Low	Mid cap (million)	Price per share	Wkly +/-	YTD %	P/E	1997 High	Low	Mid cap (million)	Price per share	Wkly +/-	YTD %	P/E
1097	1087	1040	AIM Securities	-	-2	5.5	102	207	205	5.50	-1%	-1%	61	5	5	6.10	Heritage Care Re	5	5	26.6
1097	1087	1030	AIM Securities	-	-5	5.5	102	165	117	2.23	+1%	+1%	119	117	115	16.80	Mercury Home	116	49	15
1097	1087	1010	AIMS Ltd Pub	-	-5	5.5	102	205	160	4.10	-1%	-1%	107	105	103	16.80	Orion Securities	107	-1	1
1097	1087	1030	Alcon Recruit	-	-4	5.5	102	205	160	4.10	-1%	-1%	107	105	103	16.80	Orion Securities	107	-1	1
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This Wednesday was due to see the next instalment of the Ken and Eddie show, the gatherings at which the Governor of the Bank of England comes up with several reasons why he would like interest rates to rise and the Chancellor finds at least one good reason why they should not. At least, that is the way they have played recently.

But the financial markets have been assuming that once the election was out of the way, then the game would change. Particularly if Labour won, the Governor would find himself pushing upon an open door. In the twisted logic of the markets, the way for Gordon Brown to show his toughness is to agree straightforwardly to what the Governor wants and the markets expect.

According to the know-all, big rises in interest rates are "inevitable". Starting this week, they see rates rising to 7 per cent by the end of the year, and even further next year. Yet in market matters, the

supposedly inevitable is about as certain as the winter favourite for the Derby.

Eighteen years ago, many market operators (though not your aged columnist) were still at school, if not in nappies. This is a pity, for 1979 was as salutary an experience for the money markets as it was for everybody else.

When the Conservatives were elected in May 1979, the markets were aware that the reduction of inflation was prominent in the new Government's objectives and the clever ones reasoned that lower inflation implied lower interest rates.

But what they had not worked out was that the route to lower inflation was via higher interest rates.

So it was a shock when the June 1979 Budget, which quickly followed the election, included an

increase in interest rates from 12 per cent to 14 per cent, followed in November by another increase, from 14 per cent to 17 per cent. Only then did the markets realise that they were in a different world.

Despite the markets' current confidence that interest rates must rise, there is a perfectly respectable case for leaving them well alone. With sterling up by nearly 20 per cent in 12 months, inflation is set to fall later this year. Nor does it seem likely that it will pick up much, if at all, thereafter.

This is not to say that there is not a case for some tightening of policy. But while consumer spending is expanding strongly, there are worrying signs of weakness in export orders.

The policy that would directly cater to the current state of the economy is a rise, not in interest

rates, but in taxes. This could be readily accomplished while adhering to Labour's pledge not to increase the standard and higher rates of income tax. It is here, on tax policy, rather than on interest rates, that there is a need to reverse an obvious political bias.

Given the political pressures, the

Budget last November was about as tight as could reasonably be expected, even by the most hard-hearted economist. But politics aside, it was too lax.

Indeed, it would be extraordinary if the tax levels set by a government committed to low levels of personal taxation, trying to live down a previous bout of tax rises, barely able to muster a majority in Parliament and soon to face the electorate from a desperate position in the polls, proved also to be appropriate for a new government with a fresh mandate, a large majority and five years ahead of it.

There is a view that despite these arguments, the new Chancellor can accede to at least a small rise in interest rates because this is already priced in by the markets. In delivering what they already expect, there will be no further effect

on market prices, and in particular, no further boost to the pound. There may be no such thing as a free lunch, but this is supposedly a free interest rate increase.

Don't you believe it. Just because the markets expect a rise, this does not mean that they will not react to its realisation. If you like, the first morsel, far from assuaging their hunger, may merely whet their appetite for more.

In February 1994 markets were convinced that American interest rates would have to rise. Yet they still plunged in a blind panic when Greenspan, the Fed Chairman, delivered precisely the increase of a mere ¼ per cent which they had expected.

In any case, if Mr Brown failed to deliver the interest rate rise which the markets expect then, for

from being unmoved, they should react by taking the pound down, which would be very welcome.

So, rather than being born along on a tide of inevitability, Mr Brown faces a stark choice. The best advice is to wait. Wait to see how the pound behaves in the wake of the election victory and the various announcements to be expected in the next few weeks. Wait for evidence on whether the recent signs pointing to a slight easing in the pace of growth are confirmed.

And most importantly, wait until he is ready with his plans for the Budget, now due in a matter of weeks. If he backs off from significant tax rises then a small increase in interest rates may be necessary, although still far short of what the hotheads in the City expect.

But if he is prepared to deliver a tough Budget, then there is no need for interest rates to go up at all. Now that would be the way to show who's in charge.

## Avoid doing too much too soon, Mr Brown

**The new Chancellor starts with a clean sheet. Peter Wyman offers his ideas on how he might fill it**

ever, Mr Brown should adopt some guiding principles:

- The Chancellor needs to set out his vision for the tax system and outline a programme for the whole Parliament. People and businesses should be able to plan their affairs. Not all the tax changes the new Chancellor would like to make can be introduced in the first Budget, but the clearer the idea people have of what to expect, the more confidently they can plan their future.
- For example, there has been much speculation about the future of capital gains tax. As a result, taxpayers face a dilemma on whether to accelerate or defer the selling of assets.
- Sitting on the wrong assets for the wrong reasons is potentially damaging for individual and corporate wellbeing and in the long run damages the economy as a whole.
- The Chancellor should avoid the temptation to do too much too quickly. That leads to half-developed proposals introduced by half-baked legislation. More time, not less, needs to be spent developing changes, understanding the consequences and crafting laws to stand the test of time.
- For the past 30 years we have been plagued with rushed legislation, subsequently amended many times.
- Treasury ministers should cast off their obsession with "tax loopholes" (most of which are not loopholes at all). On behalf of taxpayers and common sense, they should stamp firmly on Customs & Excise and the Inland Revenue, who are obsessed with tax avoidance. We should not have a regime that anyone with a decent adviser can get round. Equally, avoidance overkill adds hugely to costs and ties up business in red tape.
- We need a tax system that positively encourages people to achieve the Government's aims. A thriving economy, a successful business sector, high employment and high savings levels for individuals are all goals the tax system can support or undermine.

How might these principles operate? Business needs the right market conditions to flourish rather than tax incentives, though these are gratefully received. It also needs a tax regime that compares favourably with other major economies. If the tax burden on British business is higher than on European or global competitors, its competitiveness is damaged. In recent years we have enjoyed comparatively favourable tax conditions — with a consequently beneficial effect on our competitive position.

Individuals need to plan their affairs, too. But three areas of change might be contemplated:

I: A new savings scheme. The myriad special reliefs for Tessa, Peps, enterprise investment and pensions (to name a few) could all be rolled into one. A single regime could

give relief on money put in and exempt money from tax so long as it remains in, but tax money coming out as income. Ideally, given the will to encourage saving, there would be no limit to an individual's tax-free fund but, if necessary, some size parameters could be set. The trick will be to keep the rules simple, the necessary administration cheap and to look at this as a genuine wish to encourage saving and not as a tax-avoidance scheme that needs strict control.

2: Such a scheme would deal neatly with many capital gains. Changes need to be made in the regime for others. A 40 per cent top rate of tax on capital gains may be acceptable for short-term gains, but is a disincentive to long-term investment. There has been much talk about a two-tier, long and short-term capital gains tax system. Now would be the right time to make a commitment to do it, after consultation, during the lifetime of this Parliament.

3: The Government may decide to change inheritance tax.

The current regime is admittedly benign. It remains essential that businesses can still pass from generation to generation without incurring tax liabilities, that trusts (which have many purposes unrelated to tax planning) are not subjected to penal taxation, and that money can be left to spouses without tax liability.

So, if there is to be an increase in taxation where will it come from? One could envisage raising income tax by restricting allowances to the basic rate and by placing some overall limit on the tax-free savings fund. Beyond that there is no scope for higher income tax without departing from manifesto commitments or the principles above.

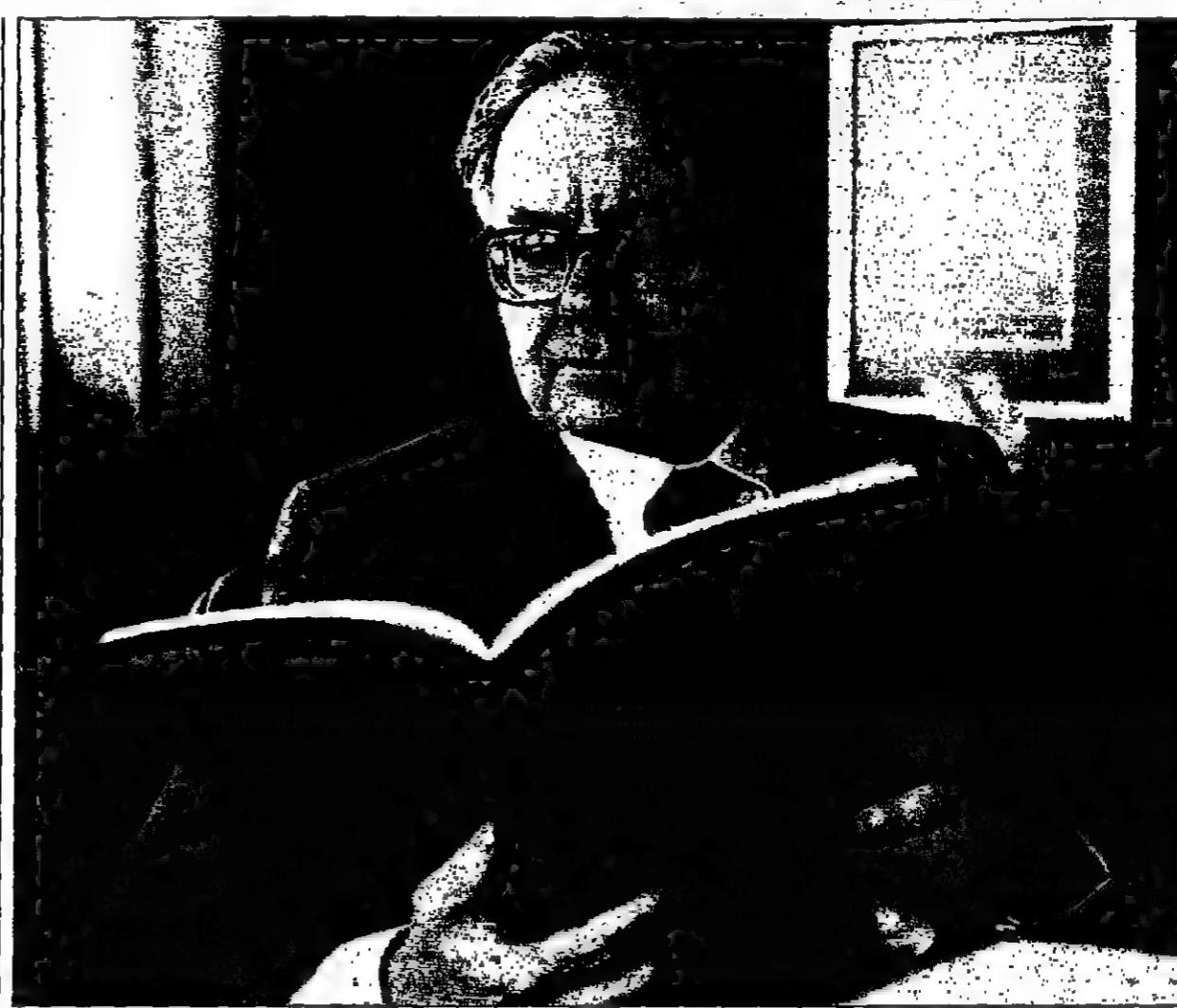
The burden falling on companies cannot be raised more than marginally if the UK is to remain competitive on tax. The yield from inheritance tax is not enough for increases to make a substantial impact on tax receipts. Interfering with pension reliefs — notably tax credit refunds for pension schemes and tax-free lump sums for those retiring — have both been talked about as easy ways to raise revenue. But that would act against the imperative to switch reliance from the state to funded private saving.

Like it or not, that only seems to leave VAT — or National Insurance, which is not a tax anyway, is it?

The author is head of tax at Coopers & Lybrand



Wyman's guiding principles



The seriously rich, wisecracking Warren Buffett, famously christened the Forrest Gump of finance by *Vanity Fair*

## Wealth of wisdom and wit behind the folksiness

**Frank le Duc on a new offering from the mind of Warren Buffett**

**T**wo simple rules guide Warren Buffett, America's most famous living investor: "Rule number one never lose money. Rule number two never forget rule number one."

The Forrest Gump of finance, as *Vanity Fair* christened him, also has a few other guiding principles, such as: "Invest in a business that even a fool can run, but to succeed in it take a genius."

One of those businesses is See's Candy. Buffett said: "When business sags, we spread the rumour that our candy acts as an aphrodisiac. Very effective. The rumour, that is not the candy."

The wise cracks and applicable parables conceal a serious purpose becoming seriously rich. The way Buffett tells it, he could add billions to his fortune. He is. And he has a knack of making the investment decisions that earned his billions seem blindingly obvious.

Perhaps they were. But lesser mortals have to settle for hindsight, while Buffett seems possessed of a remarkable foresight. A humorous and folksy style belie the quality of his analysis and the degree of his focus on his vocation and hobby: making money.

Buffett practises value investing as preached by Benjamin Graham, the father of securities analysis. The aim is to buy shares when they are undervalued. He acknowledges other influences and has allowed experience to

modify the theories, but sums up: "Price is what you pay. Value is what you get."

The bare facts are impressive. Anyone who bought \$5,000 of shares in Berkshire Hathaway, Buffet's investment vehicle, in the mid-1960s, would now be a millionaire. By 1970 he had already established an enviable track record, turning his own \$100 investment into a \$25 million personal fortune.

Some investors outperform him in some years, but few, if any, can match his sustained record of excellence.

Apart from Dow-busting returns, he has earned a string of nicknames, such as the Sage of Omaha. Born there in 1930, he prefers to operate from the corn-belt town rather than the rumour mill of Wall Street. He said pointedly: "With enough inside information and a million dollars, you can go broke in a year."

His home town becomes a modern Delphi when Berkshire Hathaway holds its annual meetings. Thousands

come to hear the Oracle field questions for hours on end.

Hundreds of his pronouncements, and not just from the annual meetings, are contained in *Warren Buffett Speaks* by Janet Lowe John Wiley & Sons, £12.99. Subtitled *Wit and Wisdom from the World's Greatest Investor*, the book, due out on Wednesday, is broken up into dozens of categories but has no index.

Lowe puts many of Buffett's remarks into their context with admirable brevity. When one of his sons stood for county commissioner, it did not mean that his campaign

would be well financed. Buffett said: "I asked him to spell his name in lower-case letters so that everyone would realise that he was the Buffet without the capital."

Other quotes need no context, such as: "That which is not worth doing, is not worth doing well." Or "the market, like the Lord, helps those who help themselves."

Explaining his philosophy, he said: "Berkshire buys

when the lemmings are heading the other way."

Inevitably, perhaps, the book lacks substance. It is rather like a tray of nibbles — immensely enjoyable, but only as an appetiser.

Wiley also published *The Warren Buffett Way* by Robert Hagstrom, a more satisfying book that explains the key deals.

Buffett's *Making of an American Capitalist*, a biography by Roger Lowenstein, published by Orion, is an easy general read. Books are peppered with Buffett's own words and his own value.

Buffett is easily admired, not only for his wealth and wit, but also for his integrity and the modest and self-deprecating charm. Others cite the long-term approach that he brings to a notoriously short-term profession.

His high-mindedness led to some sardonic references to St. Warren. But in one recent annual report he seemed to parody this when flagging Berkshire Hathaway products on sale at the annual meeting. "Though we like to think of the meeting as a spiritual experience, we must remember that even the sanctified of religions includes the ritual of the collection plate."

Buffett shows no signs of being prepared to step down from his pulpit. He is happy to keep collecting the offerings, and storing up more treasure on Earth for his followers.

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# Lang ruled out from top job at Lloyd's

BY ADAM JONES

IAN LANG, former President of the Board of Trade, is no longer in the running to be next chairman of Lloyd's of London. Insurance market insiders said Mr Lang has been dropped from the shortlist, even though the loss of his Galloway and Upper Nithsdale seat in the election would have made his recruitment easier. One source said: "He may have been in the frame, but for all sorts of reasons, that's not going to happen now."

Sir David Rowland retires as chairman at the end of this year. He took up the post in 1993 and was paid £468,000 in salary and expenses in 1995. Spencer Stuart, the headhunters, is being retained to find candidates for the succession.

It is understood that Lloyd's ruling council is looking for someone with more recent City or insurance market experience. Mr Lang held several directorships at companies in the Lloyd's insurance market between 1966 and 1981, including Hutchison and Craft, the broker, and Rose Thomson, Young, the agent. If he had been appointed, Mr

Lang would undoubtedly have been opposed by names still critical of the Conservative Government's handling of the crisis at Lloyd's.

Other rumoured candidates for the chairmanship include Jonathan Agnew, chairman of the Link corporate vehicle and a former Kleinwort Benson chief executive. Tomorrow, Tesco unveils its annual report, listing its executives' pay packages.

It is expected to confirm that an extra £400,000 bonus was paid to Sir David, as a reward for his part in pushing through the Reconstruction and Renewal package that saved Lloyd's from collapse last year. The annual report's pay details are certain to anger loss-making names, as well as action groups that are claiming Lloyd's has not fully compensated them for their expenses.

However, Sir David's supporters claim the Reconstruction and Renewal agreement, which has so far proved watertight in spite of attempts to rule it unlawful, was an enormous achievement.

## WORD-MATCHING

Answers from page 40

## WHIMMING

(c) A weak, childlike person. Do not knock it. Whimlings have a lot of fun, while strong, adult personages are worrying themselves silly.

## COM-POTATION

(c) The Latin translation of the Greek symposium. *Com* = *cum* with. *Potio*, *potari*, *potatum* is the Latin for to drink, giving the tricky word *potato* "by/with/or from one having drinks for parsing. "Darren has just started college, and they are having all these traditional ceremonies — matriculation, orientation, mothering. And every night they have something called com-potation..."

## BIGGIN

(c) A silver coffee pot with a separate container to hold the coffee as it is heated. Make a point of asking your hostess whether she has a biggin at least once during the evening.

## VELLEITY

(a) A mild wish; a gentle volition; an almost passive inclination towards some end, objective or act. From the Latin *volo*, *velle*, *volui*, *voluntum*, the irregular verb for to wish. "I sense stealing over me a very faint velleity to get up and shave and catch the Circle Line to work," you murmur at 8.30 am, as the sun steals across the dunes.

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Smelling of roses: Terry Leahy, chief executive of Tesco, which received the highest positive balance in press comment

## Tesco top of the Presswatch pops

BY ADAM JONES

TESCO is the darling of the UK press, according to analysis of newspaper comment on companies in 1996. An annual survey by Presswatch found that positive comments about the supermarket chain outweighed the negative by 3.835. The result will come as a boost to

comment on British Gas, before it split, eclipsed the positive by 7.370. Woolwich Building Society, Sears, the retailer, and Alliance & Leicester, now a bank, were the next most criticised. Companies to improve their reputation in 1996 included ING Barings and Kingfisher.

At the other end of the scale, negative

## Regan advisers may still face legal challenge

BY ADAM JONES

HAMBROS BANK and Travers Smith Braithwaite, the City law firm, may still face legal action over their role in Andrew Regan's ill-fated bid for the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS).

The two firms were advisers to Galileo, Mr Regan's purchasing vehicle, which went into solvent liquidation last Wednesday. The CWS dropped civil damages claims against the pair last week after unprecedent apologies and a payment thought to be as much as £1 million.

However, Ernst & Young, liquidator to Galileo, may yet sue over the quality of the advice that they gave to the bidder.

A spokesman for Ernst & Young confirmed that Wilde Sapte, the City lawyer, had been instructed. But he added: "No decision has been made."

He said the liquidator's investigation would examine all the circumstances surrounding the bid and would be concluded "in weeks rather than months". He added:

"Wilde Sapte, the solicitor, is advising the liquidator as part of the overall review.

"When the review is completed and if there is evidence that legal action should be taken, then we will pursue that matter." He added that Mr Regan and David Lyons, his partner, were co-operating with the liquidation team, led by Jason Elles.

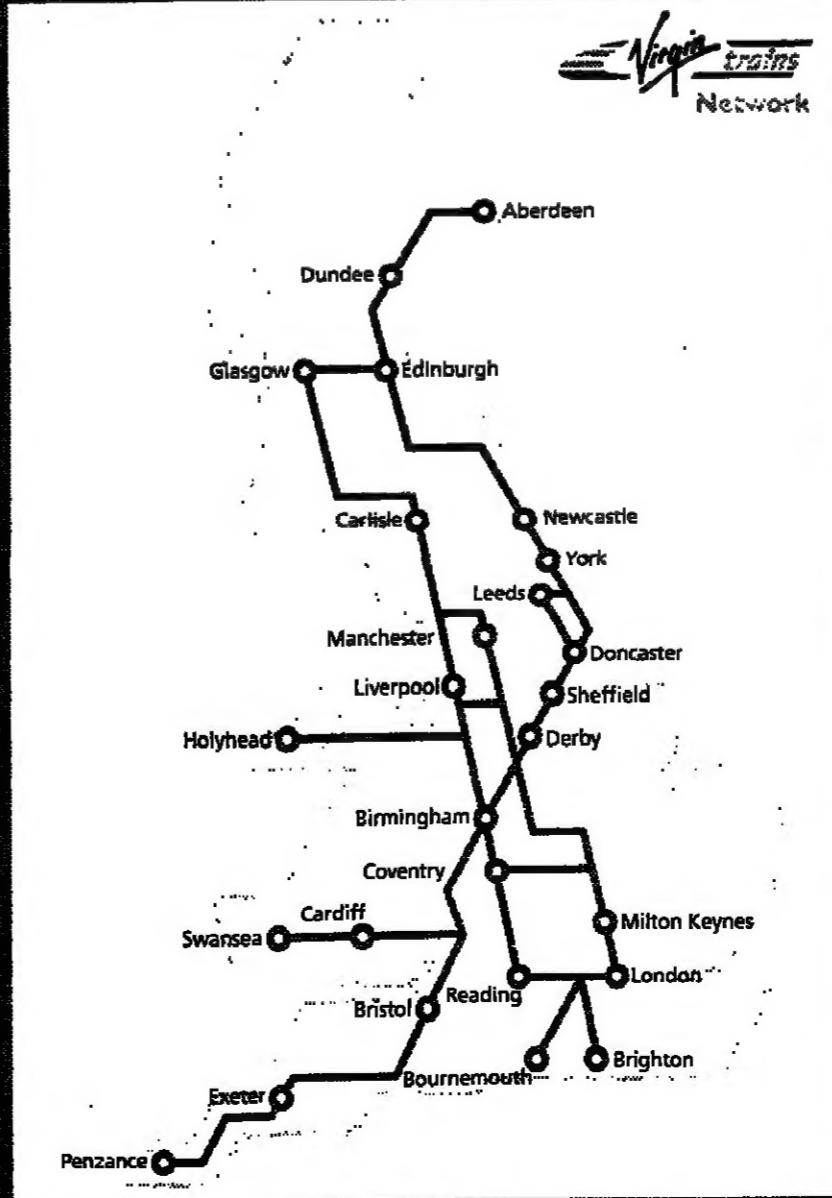
The Galileo bid collapsed after a High Court judge condemned the use of confidential documents. The Co-Op is pursuing a private prosecution against Mr Regan and Mr Lyons for allegedly aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring theft and handling stolen property.

It is also taking action against a former Co-Op manager, who was suspended by the organisation for colluding with Mr Regan, for theft.

Hambros is also conducting its own inquiry, using Norton Rose, the solicitor. It has already led to the suspension of Peter Large, head of Hambrs' Galileo team.

# THE SUNDAY TIMES

# VIRGIN TRAINS OFFER SOON DEPARTING.



See the Sunday Times next Sunday for details.

# Where there is not a prayer that the Church will protest

**Adam Jones**  
explains why  
Commissioners  
prefer to take  
a quiet line  
on ethics

The Church Commissioners, guardians of the bulk of the Church of England's assets, are facing criticism from other Christian groups for refusing to back shareholder activists. The Commissioners manage £1.6 billion of shares to fund clergy pensions and housing.

Their investment team has an ethical code that has been in existence since 1948, precluding holdings in companies that derive most of their business from alcohol, arms gambling, tobacco and newspapers. Acceptable companies are monitored to ensure they stay within the guidelines.

However, the Commissioners' preference for quietly approaching wayward companies privately, as opposed to backing critical shareholder motions at annual meetings, is coming under fire from Christian ethical investors.

The Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility (ECCR) is one of the proposers of a controversial motion due to be discussed at Shell's annual meeting on May 14. The critical resolution calls for a senior manager and an external auditor to monitor the oil company's environmental and corporate governance policies. It follows Shell's refusal to pull out of Nigeria after the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa, the Ogoni leader.

The ECCR, a coalition of Christian groups and individuals, including the Quakers, wanted to submit a similar resolution to the 1996 AGM, but was only able to raise 96 signatures, four short of the minimum. To the ECCR's frustration, the Church Commissioners, who are responsible for about £85 million of Shell shares, refused to sign and lend their considerable influence to the motion.

The ECCR says the situation is the same this year. Having again declined to sign the resolution, which is also backed by Pirc, the corporate governance pressure group, the Church Commissioners have written to the group to say that they will refrain from voting on the issue, despite admiring that they are supportive of the general themes.

The Commissioners defend their neutrality by saying they cannot be drawn into campaigning because they have a



Indirect action: the Commissioners say diplomacy achieves more than protest

strict remit laid down by statute and also because of the extra expense that could be involved in assuming a more public and pro-active role.

More importantly, they say a discreet word in a company's ear leads to a far more constructive dialogue than a damning speech at an annual meeting. A spokesman said: "We do have an ethical approach to the way we conduct investment. We monitor our investments very carefully and are always prepared to enter into dialogue with the company. We do consider the appropriateness of other forms of action on a one-off basis." These one-off actions have included complete divestment of holdings.

However, the Reverend Crispin White, co-ordinator of the ECCR, says exercising a vote at a shareholder meeting is not political or expensive: "We are treating this as a piece of responsible share ownership and we believe that's how the Commissioners ought to be treating it." He describes the Church Commissioners' ethical investment guidelines as "totally inadequate".

**H**e says tighter definitions are needed to decide how much profit a company is allowed to make from a morally dubious activity before it becomes unacceptable. He says a stricter definition is vital in deciding whether to invest in companies such as GEC, which is involved in

military sales but is also a cornerstone of Britain's electrical engineering industry.

The Church Commissioners are also about to receive a lengthy critique of their ethical stance from the Christian Ethical Investment Group, a small body of activists. The group has been preparing a response to a report produced by a Church of England working group last year, outlining ethical investment policy and practice.

On the subject of the Church's investment in Shell, the working group said: "Frequent meetings and contacts with Shell representatives from both London and Nigeria have taken place. As a result of the considerable pressure placed on Shell by the

Church Commissioners, says there are, inevitably, areas where RTZ could improve its practices.

But he says the company has a good record in health, safety and the environment, balancing the ethics of the developed world with the desire of developing countries to use their natural assets to benefit their own people. He says the Church Commissioners, while differing in opinion on how best to influence corporate governance, are supportive of the smaller groups of Christians campaigning for human rights and environmental responsibility.

He concludes: "We see ourselves as going down the motorway together, but at slightly different speeds and in slightly different lanes."

**What Labour victory means for bonds**

Gilt yields are set to rise this year, but Labour's landslide election victory should help gilts to outperform other major bond markets. We expect the benchmark ten-year yield to be 8 per cent by end-year, some 60 basis points higher than at present. If so, this implies a total return of just 1.5 per cent for domesitic investors, underperforming even the humblest bond market account.

Our statistical model of gilt yields suggests that movements in world yields account for roughly half of the change in UK yields. Domestic factors, such as the budget deficit (a measure of gilt supply) and short rates and inflation (proxies for demand), account for the remainder.

Taking the international backdrop first, in the US and Germany the medium-term bond market outlook is mildly bearish. The US is a classic late-cycle story of above-trend growth, tight labour markets, increasing inflation pressures and rising short rates. After Wednesday's figures, it seems probable that US growth will be near 3.5 per cent in 1997, against a consensus of 2.5 per cent in December. Strong GDP growth has fed through into strong employment growth — more than 550,000 new non-farm jobs so far this year — which has pushed growth in hourly earnings up to 3.5 to 4 per cent. How fast this feeds through into higher consumer price inflation is a moot point, but feed through is surely will. We think that the Fed's game plan is to raise the federal funds rate to around 6 per cent by year end, at which point we reckon

that the US long bond yield will be 7.5 per cent.

Germany's economy is gathering momentum. The weaker mark is boosting exports, and rising foreign demand is encouraging firms to step up investment. Increased demand for capital and growing unease over the substitution of the euro for the mark will push the ten-year bond yield to 6.5 per cent by end-1997.

The UK budget deficit, although far too high for this stage of the economic cycle, should fall over the course of the year, providing modest support for the gilt market.

However, unrealistic expenditure targets — for example, health expenditure in real terms is forecast to be unchanged this year — imply a

## GILT-EDGED

deficit overshoot, which will take the shine off an otherwise encouraging supply position.

Our proxies for gilt demand also give rise to concern. Base rates are forecast to rise by 0.75 percentage points in the year and medium-term inflation pressures are mounting.

There is good news, however. Although we remain cautious of gilts in absolute terms, they offer good value relative to other international bond markets. The benchmark measure of relative value, the ten-year gilt/bond yield spread, has widened steadily in the past two and a half years, thanks to above-trend UK growth. We expect the spread to narrow in the coming months for four reasons:

First, the extent of Labour's

electoral victory should be seen as a clear plus for the gilt market. Investors, though relatively comfortable with the prospect of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown directing the economy, have remained cautious of the extremes within Labour. The size of the new Government's majority should provide reassurance.

Secondly, we believe that Labour's true feelings towards Europe were played down in the election campaign. In power, Labour is expected to be more pro-European than the Tories. Simply an increase in the probability of the UK eventually joining European monetary union will boost gilts.

Thirdly, we believe that Gordon Brown, keen to prove his inflation-fighting credentials and conscious of Labour's record on inflation, will prove more willing to follow Bank of England advice on interest rates. This, by dampening longer-term inflation pressures, will support the long end of the gilt market.

Finally, although UK growth will stay above trend, faster growth in continental Europe will narrow the gap in growth rates.

So, the private investor seeking absolute return over a medium-term horizon, should be in cash rather than gilts.

However, for institutional investors, measured against a benchmark index, gilts offer the prospect of relative outperformance, with the gilt/bond spread set to narrow to 150 basis points by end-year.

DICK HOWARD AND ADRIAN OWENS  
*Julius Baer Investments*

he's twisted.

every weeknight.



TWISTED - THE UK SERIES PREMIERE,  
9.30pm WEEK NIGHTS FROM MON 5TH MAY.  
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الحمد لله

## TELEVISION CHOICE And the good news is...

Newsround's Rock and Roll Years  
BBC1, 4.45pm

"Good news for Tom and Jerry fans", said presenter John Craven almost exactly 25 years ago. He was introducing the first daily news programme aimed specifically at children and it has been going out live at 5.00pm on weekdays ever since. Although the likeable Craven left for pastures new in 1989, taking his rich and varied casual wardrobe with him, the series still gets children (and adult) viewers by the million, with BBC foreign correspondents rewriting their commentaries — often only slightly, the series prides itself on not patronising — to give, in many cases, a scoop ahead of the main news. This lively mix of nostalgia is copied from the immensely successful *Rock and Roll Years* but is stronger on the stories it recalls than on the music running parallel with them.

Change Your Life Forever  
ITV, 6.45pm and 8.00pm

Jim [as in Jim'll Fix It] has much to answer for — in spin-off terms the current *Whatever You Want* is only the beginning. Tonight Antenna Turner hosts the latest this live, two-part special (a pilot for a future series perhaps?), gives six finalists the chance to win the prize of a lifetime — the chance to change their lives forever. They are a sheet metal worker who dreams of running a cafe on a Greek island, a bus driver who wants to manage charters for blue marlin fishing, a window cleaner who... well, you get the picture. A celebrity panel, namely John Singleton, Zooey Deschanel, Vanessa Bell, and Vanessa Redgrave, film cameras in tow, to try their chosen lifestyle for a month. Then, after the break, they tell a waiting world whether they would like to adopt it.



Newsround presenters (BBC1, 4.45pm)

never-bettered special effects and, of course, play spot-the-stars... Kristin Scott Thomas, Peter O'Toole and Sir John Gielgud among them. In tonight's final chapter Jonathan Swift's hero (played by Ted Danson) is fighting to prove his sanity — not easy when his tales of the Houyhnhnms (wise horses) and Yahoos (ape-like creatures) keep getting in the way. Mary Steenburgen plays his loyal wife, Robert Hardy the doctor who heads the medical board before which Guilliver stands trial. And Dr Bates has good reason to want him proved insane...

The 1997 World Music Awards  
ITV, times vary

Now in its eighth year, this is really *Hello!* magazine territory — ie, glossy escapism — and on a Bank Holiday what better? You want royalty? Her Serene Highness Princess Stephanie of Monaco is one of the hosts. Stars? The Bee Gees, Lionel Richie, Roberta Flack, Julio Iglesias, Vanessa Mae, Kenny G... Celebrity award presenters? How about Mickey Rourke, Helena Christensen, Ursula Andress, oh and HSH Prince Albert of Monaco. You may have guessed by now all this comes from Monte Carlo. Indeed the whole bash is in aid of the Princess Grace Foundation for aspiring young artists, orphans and elderly people in need. On past form it has attracted more than 900 million viewers around the globe. You can't laugh that off...

Elizabeth Cowley

RADIO CHOICE

Mods versus Rockers  
Radio 2, 4.30pm

Teenaged girl: "We don't smash things up. We consist of?" Interviewer: "What does fun consist of?" Girl: "Smashing things up!" This is one of the surreal philosophical exchanges in Bob Harris's charring of the disturbing clash of youth cultures that was a social phenomenon of the late 1950s and early 1960s. Someone, probably Harris himself, attempts a one-sentence summary of the way in which Rockers differed from Mods. They offered "an earthy, macho, motor-cycling alternative" to the "vain, Lambretta-riding peacock" who called themselves Mods. David Bowie argues persuasively that in the 1950s, the time had at last come for the teenager to proclaim his existence. Shame about his behaviour, though.

RADIO 1

7.00am Dave Pearce 12.00 Mark Goodier 1.00pm Art & Deco with their favourite music 3.00 Kevin Greening 4.00 Mark Goodier 6.30 Newsbeat 6.38 Blit in Peel Areas 8.30 Live Music Update with Brigitte St John 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Clive Sturges 3.40 Cilla Black

RADIO 2

8.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Mods versus Rockers. See Choices 1.00 Comedy Classics 1.30 Paul McCartney Making Flaming Pie 2.00 Ed Stewart 6.05 John Dunn 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 8.00 Malcolm Leycock 9.00 Big Band Special 9.30 Hayes over Britain 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.05 Steve Macmillan 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Report 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 6.00 The Magazine with Diana Mould 12.00 Midday with Peter Meldrum 12.35 Moneycheck 2.00 Runcorn on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.35 Great Clubs of Europe 8.00 The Monday Match 9.30 And Then There Were Nine. Roddy Forsyth and Terry Butcher present a tribute to Rangers 10.00 Jeremy Vine 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00s Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

RADIO 6

5.00am Chris Ashby and Sandy Wren 7.00 Paul Ross 8.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Ian Gater 8.00s Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Defty 7.00 Moz Deva's Sportszone 10.00 James White 1.00am Mike Dickin

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. 6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 Streets of London 7.30 Omibus 8.15 City of London 8.30 Newsbeat 9.30 China 10.30 India 11.30 Pakistan 12.30 Africa 1.30 Latin America 1.30 Middle East 2.30 Europe 3.30 Asia 4.30 Australia 5.30 That You're Eating 7.00 English 10.45 Sport 11.30 Omibus 12.30pm Jazz Extr 1.05 Business 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Seven Days 1.45 Sport 2.00 Newswor 3.05 Outlook 3.20 Touched with Fire 3.45 Good Relationship Guide 4.05 Sport 4.15 On Your Behalf 4.30 Tommy Vance 5.30 Business 5.45 Britain Today 6.15 World Today 8.30 Danger Squad 9.30 News Extra 10.30 Danger Squid 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sport 12.05m Outlook 12.30 Multicar 1.30 Keep to the Path Through Europe 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Seven Days 2.45 Live from the Archives 3.30 On Screen 4.05 Business 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 7.00 Alan Menken 8.00 Hall of Fame Hour 10.00 Henry Kelly 1.00pm Music 4 Joy for Life 3.00 Jane Marckham 7.00 Sonatas Beethoven (Cello Sonata No 2 in G minor Op 5) 8.00 Evening Concerto Gershwin (Cuban Overture, Saint-Saens Africa: Fantasy for Piano and Orchestra); Strauss (Tales from the Vienna Woods) 10.00 Quartet Howard 12.00 Sally Patterson 2.00mm Music A Joy for Life (r)

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Rites 'n' Jites 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Home 6.00 Paul Coyle (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00s Randal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew MacGregor. Includes Mozart (Serenade in G, K526, Eine Kleine Nachtmusik), Dvorak (Slavia Suite); Shostakovich (Prélude and Fugue, Op 14 No 17); Hummel (Piano Trios in E flat, Op 12); Vivaldi (Moto d'Amore Concerto in A, RV585); Prokofiev (Violin Concerto in D major, Op 19); Scarlatti (Sonatas: in D minor, K1213; in G, K1214).

9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Gore. Includes Wagner (Overture Rienzi); Chopin (Polonaises in F sharp minor, Op 44); Beethoven (Symphony No 1 in G minor, Sinfonia Serseus).

10.00 Classical Concerto, with May Mills. Includes Lieder (Overture in G, Op 13 No 1); Adagio (Nixon in China, Act 1, Scene 2); Janácek (Mladi); Puccini (Requiem); Dauphin (Le Coucou); Beethoven (Concerto for Violin); Scarlatti (Sonatas: in D minor, K1213; in G, K1214).

12.00 Composer of the Week: Stravinsky.

1.00 News with Andrew MacGregor. Includes Roger Langford, baritone; Paula Crisafulli, English soprano; Mark Levy, bass viol; and David Robiou, harpsichord. Includes Blow (Philander: Do Not Think of Arms); The Self-Banished; What Is It? Who Knows? A Hymn to the Virgin; Blow (Lucifer's Fall); Christopher Simon (Piano); Bass Viola; Divisions on John Come Kiss Me Now; John Eccles (Love's But the Folly of the Mind); Find Me a Lonely Cave; Love, Gold, a Receipt for Me to Pay; The Beggar's Opera, Act One, Final scene).

2.00 The BBC Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, under Tadaaki Oshita. With Steven Isserlis, cello; Edgar (Cello Concerto in E minor); Symphony No 1 in A flat.

3.00 News with Great Pleasure (FM). The comedian and television saunter Armando Iannucci presents his favourite writing (4/6).

4.00 Weather Forecast (LW) 10.15 This Day (LW)

5.00 Women's Health (LW) 12.55 Women's Health

6.00 News 9.00 Street for the Week, with Times columnist Melvin Bragg and guests (2/2).

7.00 News 10.00 Weather (LW)

8.00 News 11.00 Weather (LW)

9.00 News 12.00 Weather (LW)

10.00 News 1.00 Weather (LW)





ROGER BOOTLE 44

Choices that  
the Chancellor  
must soon make

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

# BUSINESS

MONDAY MAY 5 1997

ALTAR EGOS 46

Schism over the  
Church's stand on  
ethical investment

## BP chief in talks over Labour role

BY OLIVER AUGUST

SIR David Simon, chairman of BP, had long weekend talks with fellow board members over his prospective role in Tony Blair's government. He is one of a number of high-profile businessmen mulling over or awaiting an invitation from the Prime Minister.

Sir David, an enthusiast for European business integration, is thought to have been offered a senior advisory post with responsibility for industry. One possibility is that of chief industrial adviser at the Department of Trade and Industry.

Earlier reports that Sir David, 57, would be made

Europe minister were overtaken by events yesterday when Doug Henderson was appointed to the post. But Sir David's strong European credentials are expected to make him a prominent advocate of monetary union membership inside the Government.

He is keen to stay at the oil group. From his North Norfolk cottage he is believed to be telling board members that he would prefer a part-time political post. He has worked for BP since 1961 and has a reputation for being effective rather than flamboyant. He spent much of the 1970s and early 1980s running BP operations on the Continent.

The members of the Commission included Bob Bischof, chairman of the Boss Group, David Sainsbury, chairman of J. Sainsbury, Sir Christopher Harding, chairman of Legal & General, Bob Ayling, the BA chief executive, Bob Bauman, the British Aerospace chairman, George Simpson, the GEC chief executive. Also believed to be considered are Lord Hollick, chief executive of United News and Media, and Gerry Robinson, chief executive of Granada.

While some British industrialists were waiting to hear from Mr Blair personally, Margaret Beckett, his new President of the Board of Trade, wrote an open letter to thousands of firms across the country. She pledged to build a "high-skill, high-investment" economy and establish new partnerships with business. She wrote she wanted her department "to build a real partnership with every part of industry, so our businesses can prosper and thrive."

"Before we came to power, we consulted extensively with all sectors of the business community. Now that we are in government we shall build on that consultation, working closely with Britain's entrepreneurs."

Mrs Beckett's letter promised particular help for Britain's exporters, who are struggling with a strong pound which has made their goods much more expensive abroad. The Labour Government's policies on the European Union would also be tailored to British business needs, including a drive to complete the Single Market, giving British manufacturers open access to all corners of the EU market.

The IOD admitted that the rise in sterling had hit manufacturing and polarised the economy into fast-growing

service sectors and slow

growth from sectors sensitive to the exchange rate. It said inflationary pressures could recur if sterling weakened, but joined the CBI and many of the previous Chancellor's independent economic advisers in calling for a tax squeeze to replace monetary tightening.

Favourites for raising the tax burden are the final abolition of mortgage tax relief, which could help to stem the rise in South East house prices, and restricting income tax allowances of higher-rate taxpayers to the standard rate of tax. This would particularly affect pension contributions.

City economists argue, however, that business is likely to be the biggest short-term sufferer from tax imposts, especially if pension fund tax privileges are attacked.

Business already seems resigned to higher taxes according to a poll of 74 executives of leading businesses from Ernst & Young, the accountancy group. It found that most expected a higher rate of corporation tax and higher National Insurance contributions.

A high proportion expect their pension funds to be hit by measures to cut or abolish pension fund tax privileges on dividends. Labour would claim that this encourages capital investment. But companies expect to have to make up any shortfall in their funds.

Three quarters believed joining the social chapter, which the Government made its first steps towards yesterday, would harm their businesses. While most employers have issued warnings over the social chapter, these mostly concern what it could mean rather than what it does.

The Bundesbank still has an offsetting obligation to go with the grain of Federal economic policies.

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## Robertson signs Sceptre refit order

BY OLIVER AUGUST

THE Government has signed its first defence order within 24 hours of taking office. George Robertson, the new Defence Secretary, endorsed a £120 million refit of HMS *Sceptre*, one of five Swiftsure class nuclear hunter-killer submarines.

Babcock International, the engineering group, will carry out the work at Rosyth Royal Dockyard in Scotland. Up to 3,200 jobs could be safeguarded for years to come. Defence industry insiders had voiced fears that Labour might try to pay for extra spending on health and education by cutting expensive defence projects.

But expectations that Mr Robertson will now endorse Tory defence plans wholesale are said to be misguided.

Yesterday's go-ahead is confirmation of a decision announced in principle last November, though officials and ministers still had to be assured that the taxpayer was getting value for money.

Labour is committed to conducting a wide-ranging defence review, which could take up to a year.

Mr Robertson, may also have taken a personal interest in the *Sceptre* project because of the large amount of work it brings to Scotland.



A CHEF, who is so distracted by the offer of Norwich Union shares that the lobster he is attacking escapes, forms part of a Saatchi & Saatchi advertising campaign launched this weekend to promote the flotation of the former East Anglian mutual insurance group (Graham Seeargent writes).

The High Court has approved the society's conversion to plc status after members voted 99 per cent in favour on April 18. Unlike the Alliance & Leicester Building Society and most others in the current run of conversions, Norwich is aiming to raise new money from members and other investors through

the flotation. Members will be offered shares at a discount. The prospectus is due this month, before the June flotation. For television viewers, meanwhile, the chef escapes lightly compared with an astronaut who misses his rocket back to Earth and a trapeze artist who forgets to catch his partner.

## Brown urged to put squeeze on taxes

BY GRAHAM SEEARJANT  
FINANCIAL EDITOR

GORDON BROWN, the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, is under strong pressure from business and economists to raise interest rates a little this week to show his earnestness in fighting inflation. But most are giving him carte blanche to raise taxes in an emergency Budget in two months as an alternative to sharper increases in interest rates.

The Institute of Directors yesterday joined a chorus expecting the Chancellor to agree a quarter-point rise in base rates at the monthly monetary meeting with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, scheduled for Wednesday.

The IOD admitted that the rise in sterling had hit manufacturing and polarised the economy into fast-growing

service sectors and slow growth from sectors sensitive to the exchange rate. It said inflationary pressures could recur if sterling weakened, but joined the CBI and many of the previous Chancellor's independent economic advisers in calling for a tax squeeze to replace monetary tightening.

City economists argue, however, that business is likely to be the biggest short-term sufferer from tax imposts, especially if pension fund tax privileges are attacked.

Business already seems resigned to higher taxes according to a poll of 74 executives of leading businesses from Ernst & Young, the accountancy group.

Young, the accountancy group, found that most expected a higher rate of corporation tax and higher National Insurance contributions.

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